

Title:
The COVID-19 pandemic shows us in which way the care of patients with inflammatory bowel disease should move

Authors:
Vicent Hernández Ramírez, Pilar López Serrano

DOI: 10.17235/reed.2021.7765/2020

Link: [PubMed \(Epub ahead of print\)](#)

Please cite this article as:
Hernández Ramírez Vicent, López Serrano Pilar. The COVID-19 pandemic shows us in which way the care of patients with inflammatory bowel disease should move. Rev Esp Enferm Dig 2021. doi: 10.17235/reed.2021.7765/2020.



This is a PDF file of an unedited manuscript that has been accepted for publication. As a service to our customers we are providing this early version of the manuscript. The manuscript will undergo copyediting, typesetting, and review of the resulting proof before it is published in its final form. Please note that during the production process errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.

Accepted

CC 7765 inglés

The COVID-19 pandemic shows us in which way the care of patients with inflammatory bowel disease should move

Vicent Hernández Ramírez^{1,2} and Pilar López Serrano³

¹Digestive Diseases Service. Xerencia Xestión Integrada de Vigo, SERGAS. Vigo, Spain. ²Gastrointestinal Pathology Research Group. Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria Galicia Sur (IIS Galicia Sur). SERGAS-UVIGO. Vigo, Spain. ³Digestive Diseases Service. Hospital Universitario Fundación Alcorcón. Alcorcón, Spain

Correspondence: Vicent Hernández Ramírez
e-mail: vicent.hernandez.ramirez@sergas.es

Keywords: COVID-19. Inflammatory bowel disease. Telemedicine.

Conflict of interest

Vicent Hernández has participated as a speaker; has received fees for scientific collaborations; has received support to attend conferences; or has received funds for research from MSD, AbbVie, Ferring, FAES Farma, Shire Pharmaceuticals, Dr. Falk Pharma, Tillotts Pharma, Otsuka Pharmaceutical, Pfizer, Takeda, Jansen, KernPharma Biologics, Gebro Pharma, Sandoz, Adacyte, Biogen and Fresenius-Kabi.

Pilar López Serrano has received fees for scientific collaborations and has received support to attend to conferences from MSD, AbbVie, Ferring, Dr. Falk Pharma, Takeda, Jansen, Amgen and Fresenius-Kabi.

Dear Editor,

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced major changes in the care of patients with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). The articles by El Hajra et al. (1) and Fernández Álvarez et al. (2) show the modifications in patient management that were performed during the state of alarm in Spain. The assessment of the IBD Unit at a tertiary hospital

(Hospital Universitario Puerta de Hierro Majadahonda) (1) agrees on what is reported by a survey performed with patients from the Association of Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis Patients (ACCU) in Sevilla (2). Consultations shifted to telematics (mainly by phone) in more than 90 % of cases, with a particularly good reception by the patients (87 % considered it useful during the state of alarm and for the future) (2). IBD patients are often treated with immunosuppressants or biologic drugs. The above-mentioned articles describe a high persistence in such treatments (around 90 % of the patients) but only 50 % in patients aged 60 years or older, who discontinued these therapies due to their own decision (2). This can be explained by a greater concern about SARS-CoV-2 infection (likely due to comorbidities) or by a lower access to information through the internet (e-mail or social media).

Technology provides more options beyond the telephone consultations, through platforms or mobile apps (such as the TECCU [3] or G-Educainflamatoria platforms), which can help to improve self-control, patient follow-up and treatment adherence. However, it implies new challenges such as maintaining the doctor-patient relationship at a distance (with empathy, understanding and respect) and keeping secure communications, confidentiality and data protection policies. It is essential to reach an agreement with our patients on the use of these new models of care, according to their access possibilities and training.

References

1. El Hajra I, Calvo M, Santos E, et al. Consequences and management of COVID-19 on the care activity of an Inflammatory Bowel Disease Unit. *Rev Esp Enferm Dig* 2021. DOI: 10.17235/reed.2020.7543/2020
2. Fernández Álvarez P, Belvis Jiménez M, Maldonado Pérez B, et al. Perspectiva de los pacientes con enfermedad inflamatoria intestinal durante la pandemia COVID-19: resultados encuesta ACCU. *Rev Esp Enferm Dig* 2021.
3. Aguas M, Del Hoyo J, Faubel R, et al. A web-based telemanagement system for patients with complex inflammatory bowel disease: protocol for a randomized controlled clinical trial. *JMIR Res Protoc* 2018;7:e190. DOI: 10.2196/resprot.9639

4. G-Educainflamatoria. Accessed: Dec 27th, 2020. Available from:
<https://www.educainflamatoria.com>

Accepted Article