



NEWSLETTER

A **B**IOlogic drug safety and effectiveness inter**N**ational pharmacoepidemiologic **I**C study in pregnant women with autoimmune disorders or asthma and their children (BIONIC).

BIONIC OBJECTIVES

In women with AD or asthma, who continue versus discontinue biologic use in pregnancy, compare the risks of:

- 1) Maternal complications in, and worsening of disease during, pregnancy.
- 2) Complications in their infants and children.

Newsflash

Patient Partners

Welcome to 3 new Patient Partners! Meet one of the new members in the Team Feature section on page 3

Presentations

Dr. Grandi, Yanara Marks, and Kate Mather co-presented for the Child Health Evaluative Sciences seminar series at the Hospital for Sick Children on October 21, 2024.

Funding

Funding announcements will be forthcoming - please stay tuned!



At the SickKids CHES Rounds, members of the team presented “Bridging contemporary methods and a patient-centered approach to inform the safety of medication use in pregnancy for maternal and infant outcomes”. Pictured on the left: (from left to right) Dr. Sonia Grandi (Scientist), Yanara Marks (research coordinator), and Kate Mather (patient partner).

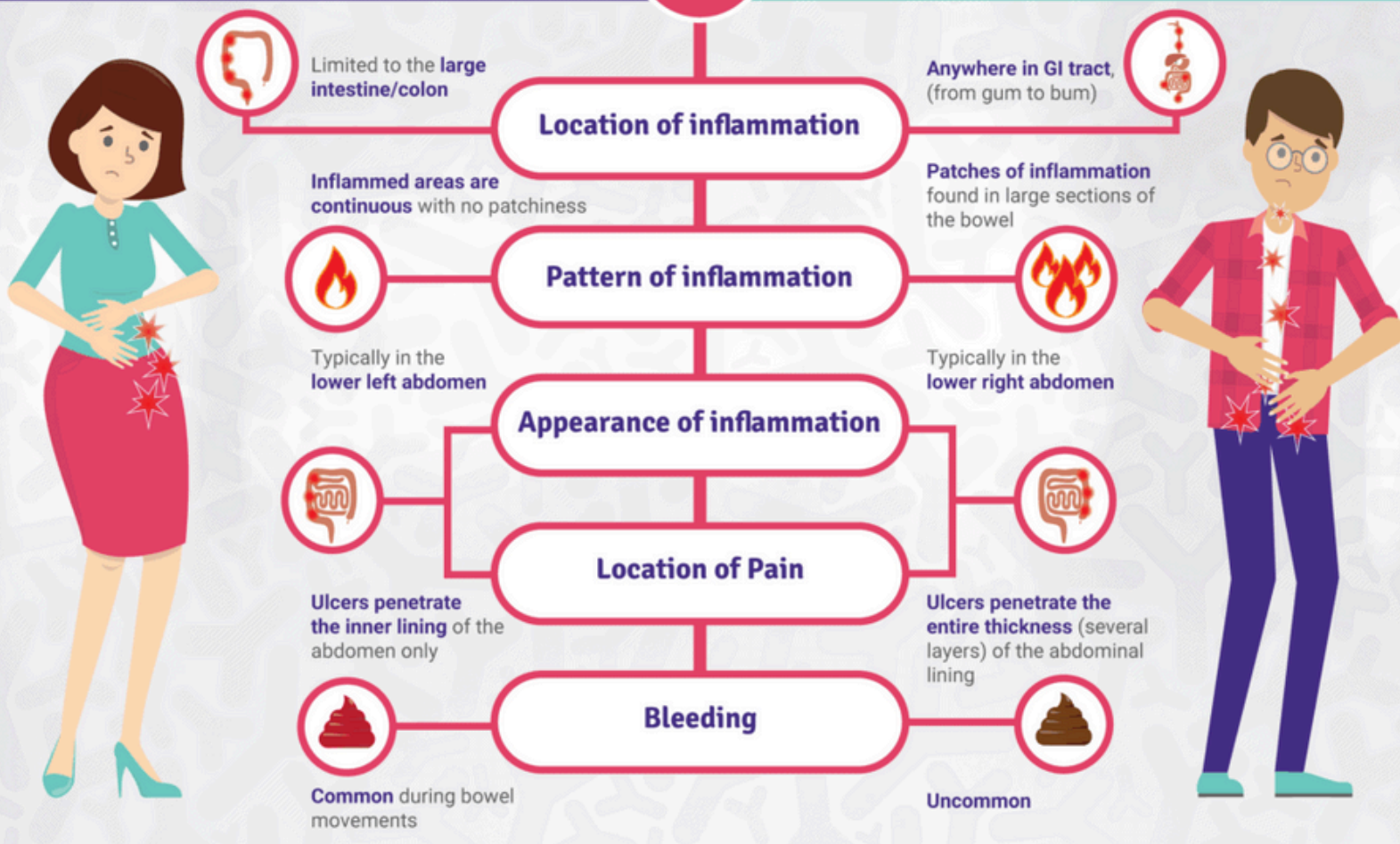
NOVEMBER IS CROHN'S AND COLITIS AWARENESS MONTH

Learn the difference between Ulcerative Colitis and Crohn's disease below

Ulcerative Colitis

VS

Crohn's Disease



To learn more visit [CDHF.ca](https://cdhf.ca)



Image: Canadian Digestive Health Foundation (CDHF). 2022. <https://cdhf.ca/en/inflammatory-bowel-disease-digital-toolkit-for-the-newly-diagnosed/>

IBD Quick Facts



- ✎ Planning conception during IBD remission increases the likelihood of staying in remission during pregnancy
- ✎ Active disease during pregnancy increases the risks of preeclampsia, c-section delivery, preterm birth, low birth weight, and small for gestational age
- ✎ Continuing IBD medications during pregnancy is essential; most are safe, but some, like methotrexate, are not. Always consult your gastroenterologist
- ✎ Visit the Crohn's and Colitis [Fact Sheet](#) for more information

Reference: Crohn's and Colitis Foundation. <https://www.crohnscolitisfoundation.org/sites/default/files/legacy/assets/pdfs/womenfactsheet.pdf>

Meet Amber Tresca



I was 16 years old when the symptoms of ulcerative colitis started. After a misdiagnosis which led to continued blood loss as well as worsening weight loss, pain, and fatigue, I was finally diagnosed through a colonoscopy. I was admitted into the hospital and didn't leave for 40 days. There weren't many choices for IBD management at that time, so my disease was mostly uncontrolled until I was 25 years old and had my final colonoscopy. The biopsies showed precancerous changes throughout my colon, which was so badly damaged it was falling apart. It had to come out. I had 2-step j-pouch surgery at the age of 26 and after a long recovery, I began to rediscover life: food, travel, relationships, and days free of pain and diarrhea.

Having my disease managed has allowed me to become a voice for the patient community. I have a blog (AboutIBD.com) and a podcast (About IBD) focused on IBD and am able to lobby in Washington DC for better patient protections. IBD profoundly changed the course of my life. But each day I'm grateful for the hope, insight, and purpose the IBD community has given me.

IBD RESOURCES

[Crohn's and Colitis Foundation](#) (USA) and [Crohn's and Colitis Canada](#) (Canada): Non-profit organizations committed to providing care, and finding a cure, for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis

[American Gastroenterological Association \(AGA\)](#): A professional organization made up of gastroenterologists and hepatologists, providing education, research, resources, and advocacy

[Connecting to a Cure](#): Network established to connect and engage IBD patients, caregivers, doctors, researchers, and volunteers, through different programs and events

[IBD Social Circle](#): An IBD hub for patients, caregivers, and healthcare professionals with the aim of providing tools and resources

[IBD Moms](#): A non-profit organization providing education, resources, and donations to help empower mothers affected by IBD

[PIANO Project](#): An ongoing research study examining the safety of IBD medications in pregnancy and health outcomes in children exposed during pregnancy, lead by the University of California San Francisco (UCSF)

[Lights, Camera, Crohn's](#): BIONIC patient partner, Natalie Hayden, shares her journey with IBD on her blog, to raise awareness and help others. Meet her in our next Newsletter edition!

Share Your Thoughts

Let us know what you think of the November BIONIC Newsletter, or tell us what you would like to hear about in the next edition [here](#).



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