

# Diagnostic delays common in inflammatory bowel disease

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(HealthDay)—Diagnostic delays are common in inflammatory bowel

disease, with 68 percent of patients reporting a delay in diagnosis, according to a study presented at the 2019 Crohn's & Colitis Congress, held from Feb. 7 to 9 in Las Vegas.

Zane Gallinger, M.D., from Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, and colleagues assessed self-reported diagnostic delay and perceived reasons for delay in a validated online cohort of IBD patients. A total of 1,121 patients completed the surveys on delay in diagnosis.

The researchers found that 68 percent of IBD patients (757 patients) reported a delay in diagnosis, while 32 percent did not think there was a delay in their diagnosis. Of the patients reporting a delay, 63.9 and 48.1 percent reported a delay of more than one year and more than two years, respectively. Compared with ulcerative colitis patients, those with Crohn disease were more likely to report a delay of more than one year (70 versus 48 percent) or more than two years (52.2 versus 37 percent). When stratifying by gender or race, there was no [significant difference](#) in delay. Before receiving a diagnosis, [patients](#) reported seeing a mean of 3.5 physicians. The most common reason for delay was an uncertain or wrong initial diagnosis by a primary care provider or gastroenterologist (58.2 and 28.3 percent, respectively).

"Future studies are needed to identify ways to best mitigate diagnostic [delay](#) in IBD," the authors write.

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