



Advancing GI Patient Care 2021

SATURDAY, JULY 24, 2021

Accredited by:



This program is supported by an educational grant from
Janssen Biotech, Inc., Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals and Pfizer Inc.

Crohn's Disease: Politics, Prednisone, and Poop

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Disclosures

Kimberly Persley, MD:

- There are no relevant disclosures at this time.

Down the Rabbit Hole

- Interrupted with more P2P
- Increase in Prior Authorizations
- Biosimilars
- Texas Legislative session 2021



Crohn's Disease: It's Political!

Outline

- Case Presentation
- History of Crohn's disease
- Politics
- Advocacy
- How to become involved
- Conclusion

Case Presentation

- BW is a 32 year-old woman with Crohn's ileocolitis dx at age 20 s/p limited ileocelectomy at the age of 25 for fibrostenotic disease. Humira started post op but lost health insurance and stopped medication after 1 year.
- 1 year ago, she developed an increased lower abdominal pain, fevers, chills, and joint pain. Patient agreed to start Remicade infusion. Patient received first infusion about five weeks later.
- She had improvement of bowel symptoms, but joint pain persisted at q 6 weeks. Fecal calprotectin 838. Infliximab trough level 3.8 and no antibodies.
- Increase dose to 10 mg/kg recommended. P2P was done and dose increase approved. There was a delay in patient getting Remicade dose.

Crohn's Disease: Historical Perspective



- Hippocrates and Aerateus described cases and rectal bleeding and weight loss
- Soranus of Ephesus (born 98 AD) described Crohn's like Proctitis
- TK Dalziel-Scottish surgeon (1861-1924) first report of chronic inflammatory intestine

Crohn, Ginzberg and Oppenheimer



- May 1932
 - Presented an article on the condition called “terminal ileitis to the AMA
 - AMA published the piece in JAMA called “Regional ileitis: A Pathologic and Chronic Entity”
- Description of 14 patients with “terminal ileitis”
- Treated with surgical resection
- Medical therapy was “purely palliative and supportive”

Burrill Bernard Crohn



- Burrill Crohn, MD (1884-1983)
 - Gastroenterologist at Mount Sinai Medical Center New York
 - Private Practice in NYC
 - President of the AGA
 - Served as a consultant for President Eisenhower
 - Practiced medicine until age 90

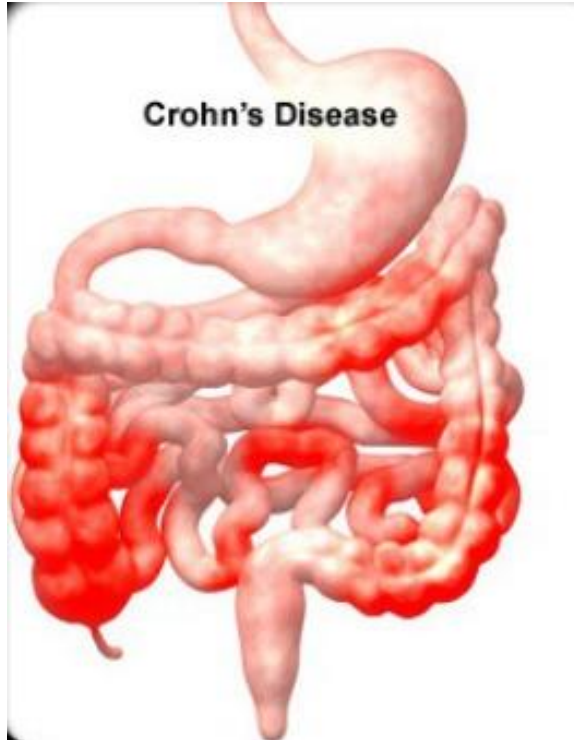
Inflammatory Bowel Disease

Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



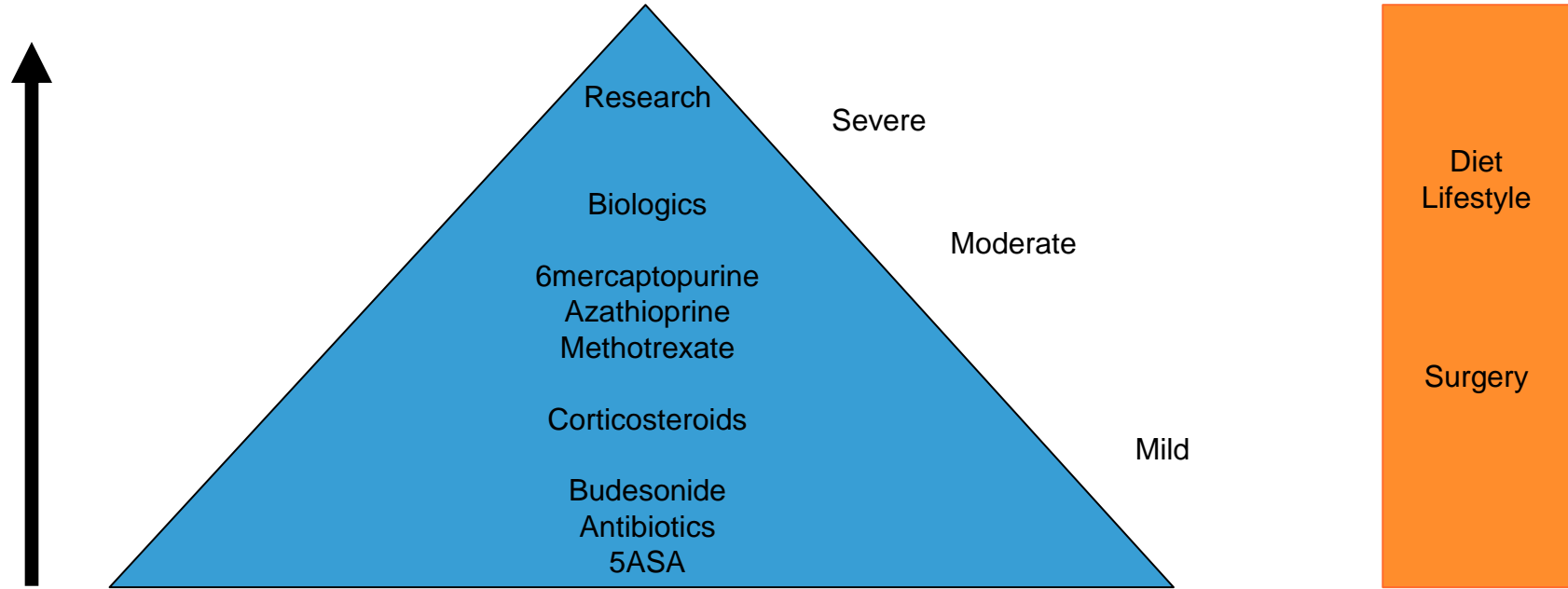
2015 report –
3 million US adults with
Inflammatory bowel disease

Crohn's Disease



- Inflammation can involve any part of the GI tract
- Inflammation is transmural
 - Fistula
 - Abscesses
 - Stricture
- Surgery is not a cure

Treatment Pyramid



Advocacy Priorities

- Protect patients from insurer discrimination and bolster patient protections
- Limit out of pocket costs
- Fund CDC IBD Epidemiology Program
- Increase funding for NIH and NIDDK
- Ensure coverage for medical nutrition
- Support Restroom Access
- Reduce PA burdens on physicians
 - Gov Abbott signs: HB 3459
- Reform step therapy (AGA, ACG, CCF)
 - Senate Bill 464
 - HR Bill 2163

Texas 87 HB 3459

H.B. No. 3459

AN ACT

relating to preauthorization requirements for certain health care services and utilization review for certain health benefit plans.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

HR 2163 – Safe Step Act

Safe Step Act

- This bill requires a group health plan to establish an exception to medication step-therapy protocol in specified cases. A medication step-therapy protocol establishes a specific sequence in which prescription drugs are covered by a group health plan or a health insurance issuer.
- A request for such an exception to the protocol must be granted if:
 1. an otherwise required treatment has been ineffective,
 2. such treatment is expected to be ineffective and delaying effective treatment would lead to irreversible consequences,
 3. such treatment will cause or is likely to cause an adverse reaction to the individual,
 4. such treatment is expected to prevent the individual from performing daily activities or occupational responsibilities,
 5. the individual is stable based on the prescription drugs already selected, or
 6. there are other circumstances as determined by the Employee Benefits Security Administration.
- The bill requires a group health plan to implement and make readily available a clear process for an individual to request an exception to the protocol, including required information and criteria for granting an exception. The bill further specifies timelines under which plans must respond to such requests.

S 3657 – Medical Nutrition Equity Act

- This bill expands coverage under Medicare, Medicaid, other specified federal health care programs, and private health insurance to include foods, vitamins, and individual amino acids that are medically necessary for the management of certain digestive and metabolic disorders and conditions.

What Is Advocacy?

- Advocacy is the act of supporting and enabling people to:
 - Express views and concerns
 - Access information and services
 - Defend and promote their rights and responsibilities
 - Explore choices and options

Types of Advocacy

- Direct advocacy
 - Persuading decision makers on public policy
 - Legislators: local, state, federal
 - Regulatory agencies: CMS, VA, FDA, NIH
- Public engagement
 - Social media
 - In-person discussions
- Media engagement
 - Getting your message out to decision makers and the public
 - Opinion editorials
 - Interviews

Physician Advocacy

- We are all advocates
- We are best suited to advocate on issues of GI health
- We and our patients live by the consequences of governmental decisions
- AGA tweet...

If you're not at the
table, you're on the
menu

How to Advocate

- Attend events such as fundraisers and town hall meetings
- Schedule a meeting with the district office
- Participate in or host a facility tour with your member of the Legislature
- Stay connected with the district office staff and be a resource for them
- Mobilize others to communicate
 - Utilize social media
- Political Giving
 - Give to campaigns
 - Donate to PAC

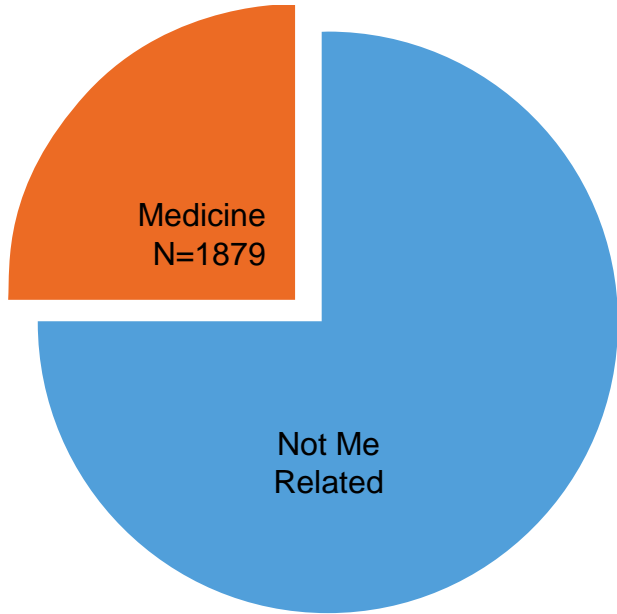
Texas Legislature

- Convenes every two years
- 140 day regular session



87th Texas Legislative Session

Legislative Bills Filed



- 181 members
 - 31 Senators
 - 150 Representatives
- 5 Physicians
 - 3 Senators
 - 2 Representatives
- 7385 bills filed
- 1879 medical related bills
 - 25% of all bills

Physicians in the Texas State Legislature 2021

- Senator Dawn Buckingham
- Senator Donna Campbell
- Senator Charles Schwertner
- Rep. Greg Bonnen
- Rep. Tom Oliverson

Know Who Represents You

- Who represents me in the state legislature?
- Who represents me in the US Congress?
- Who is an ally to physicians, gastroenterologists, ASC?
 - Communicate
 - Support
- Stay up-to-date with legislation.
 - Track bills
 - Follow updates with your favorite society (TMA, TSGE, CCF, AGA, ACG, TASCS, etc.
 - Weekly or monthly updates during the Texas legislative session

Conclusions

- Advocacy allows our voice to be heard
- Healthcare environment is constantly changing
- Providing quality care to our IBD patient requires eliminating barriers to care
- Be involved!