CROHN’S INFLAMMATION IN THE BODY

Bring this printout to your next doctor appointment. Tell your doctor about your Crohn’s disease symptoms and how they have changed since your last appointment. Ask your doctor how any symptoms you experience may be related to where inflammation is occurring in your GI tract. Some people will experience symptoms when their GI tract is inflamed while others may not. It’s important to routinely meet with your doctor to ensure you are actively monitoring your disease, regardless of the severity of your symptoms.

MOUTH
In the mouth, inflammation can lead to ulcers and other complications. However, ulcers and complications in the mouth are relatively uncommon. Symptoms may include pain and discomfort when eating.

ESOPHAGUS
In the esophagus, inflammation can lead to ulcers and other complications. However, ulcers and complications in the esophagus are uncommon, affecting up to 2% of patients. Symptoms may include pain and discomfort when eating and swallowing.

STOMACH
In the stomach, inflammation can lead to ulcers and other complications. However, ulcers and complications in the stomach are uncommon, affecting up to 4% of patients. Symptoms may include pain and nausea.

SMALL INTESTINE
In the small intestine, inflammation can lead to ulcers that can become deeper or more prevalent as the inflammation level increases, involving the surrounding tissue. Symptoms may include diarrhea and anemia.

COLON
In the colon, inflammation can lead to ulcers that can become deeper or more prevalent as the inflammation level increases, involving the surrounding tissue. Symptoms may include abdominal pain and diarrhea.

RECTUM
In the rectum, inflammation can lead to ulcers that can become deeper (fissures) or more prevalent as the inflammation level increases. Symptoms may include bleeding, pain, and fever.

COMPLICATIONS
Chronic inflammation may lead to a stricture (narrowing), abscess (a collection of pus), or fistula (an abnormal tract) in the small intestine, colon, or rectum. Some symptoms of complications may include abdominal and/or rectal pain and discomfort, little or no passage of stool, fever, diarrhea, and blood in the stool. Talk to your doctor right away if you experience severe symptoms.

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