

# Digestion: Support for Inflammatory Bowel Disease

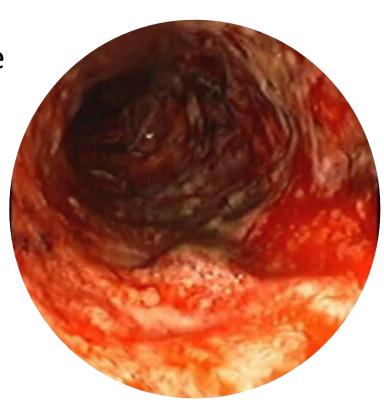
Dr. Ritamarie Loscalzo



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## **Inflammatory Bowel Disease**

- ✓ Group of disorders that cause the intestines to become inflamed
- ✓ The inflammation lasts a long time and usually comes back over and over again
- ✓ Approximately 1.4 million Americans have some kind of inflammatory bowel disease
- ✓ The two primary types of inflammatory bowel disease are Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis
- Diverticulitis is another commoninflammatory bowel disease

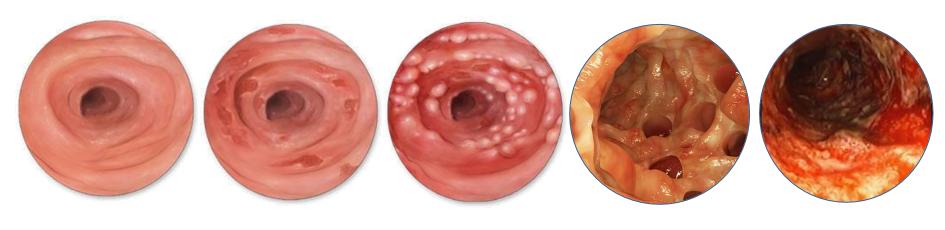


# **Inflammatory Bowel Diseases**

### Chronic inflammation along the GI tract, usually autoimmune

- ✓ Ulcerative Colitis
- ✓ Crohn's
- ✓ Diverticulitis

- ✓ Microscopic Colitis
  - > Collagenous colitis
  - > Lymphocytic colitis



Healthy Colon

Ulcerative Colitis Crohn's Disease

Diverticulitis

Microscopic Colitis

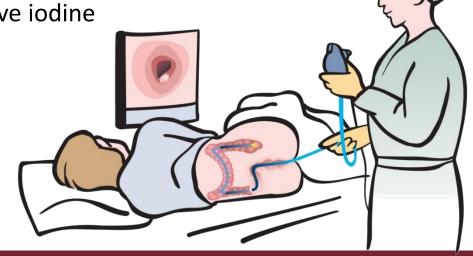
### **Causes of Inflammatory Bowel Disease**

- ✓ Immune system malfunction
- ✓ Bacterial, viral, or parasitic infections
- ✓ Dietary factors
  - Contaminated foods
  - > High fat and high sugar diet
  - > Hydrogenated oils and processed foods
  - Celiac disease and food allergies
  - > Eating disorders
- ✓ Stress
- ✓ Smoking
- ✓ Genetic predisposition
- ✓ Environmental toxins
- ✓ Medications: oral contraceptives, HRT, acne drugs
  - ✓ Gastric bypass surgery



# **Evaluation of Inflammatory Bowel Disease**

- ✓ Symptom survey
- ✓ Complete blood test, including antibody tests
- ✓ Fecal occult blood test
- ✓ Stool test: inflammatory markers, parasites
  - Calprotectin
  - > Lysozyme
  - > Lactoferrin
  - White blood cells and mucus
  - Secretory IgA
- ✓ Imaging
  - > Contrast x-ray: Barium or radioactive iodine
  - Small bowel imaging
  - > CT scan
  - > MRI
  - Endoscopy
  - Colonoscopy
  - > Flexible sigmoidoscopy





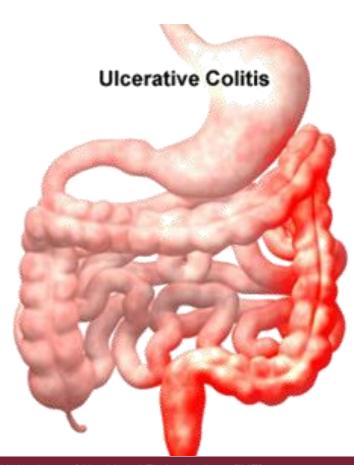
### **Ulcerative Colitis**

#### ✓ Location:

➤ Most common on the left side of the large intestine: descending colon, sigmoid, and rectum

#### ✓ Characteristics and Symptoms:

- ➤ Inflammation and ulceration on the surface of intestinal lining
- > Thinning of the mucosa
- > Blood and mucus in the stools
- Diarrhea
- > Cyclic abdominal pain and cramping
- > Rectal pain
- > Weight loss, fever, fatigue



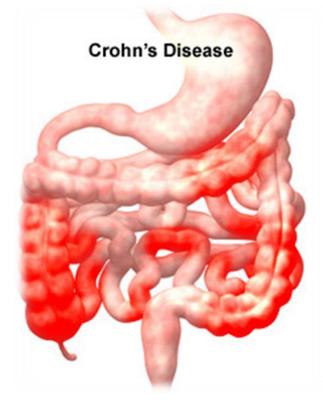
### Crohn's Disease

#### ✓ Location:

- > Anywhere in GI tract, most commonly in ileocecal area (about 50%)
- ➤ Other locations: large intestine (about 20%), small intestine alone (about 30%), stomach (rarely), mouth, and esophagus very rare

#### ✓ Characteristics and Symptoms:

- ➤ Inflammation deep into the lining
- > Thickening of the mucosa
- > Serious, doubling over type pain
- > Lots of diarrhea
- > Weight loss, fever, fatigue
- Rectal bleeding (less than UC)





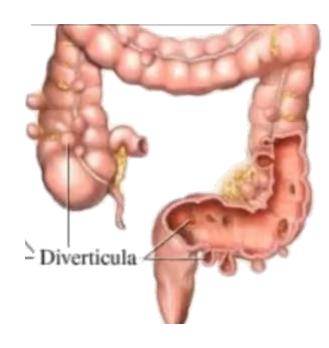
### **Diverticulitis**

#### ✓ Location:

Anywhere in the digestive tract, but most commonly at the end of the descending and sigmoid colon

#### ✓ Characteristic and Symptoms:

- Outpouchings in intestine (diverticula)
- > Inflammation or bursting of diverticula
- ➤ Possibly due to infection
- ➤ Much lower incidence in vegetarians
- > Pain, usually lower left side, persistent
- Nausea and vomiting
- > Fever
- > Abdominal tenderness
- Constipation and sometimes diarrhea



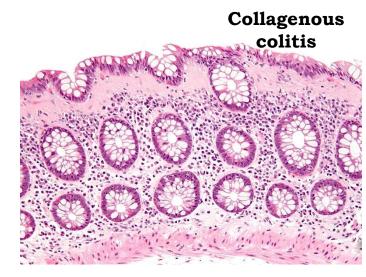
### **Microscopic Colitis**

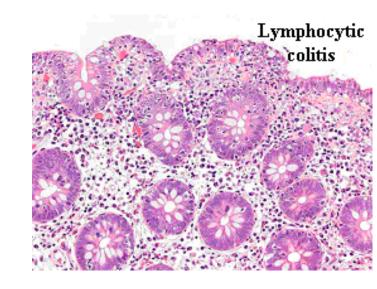
#### ✓ Location:

> Large intestine

#### ✓ Characteristics and Symptoms:

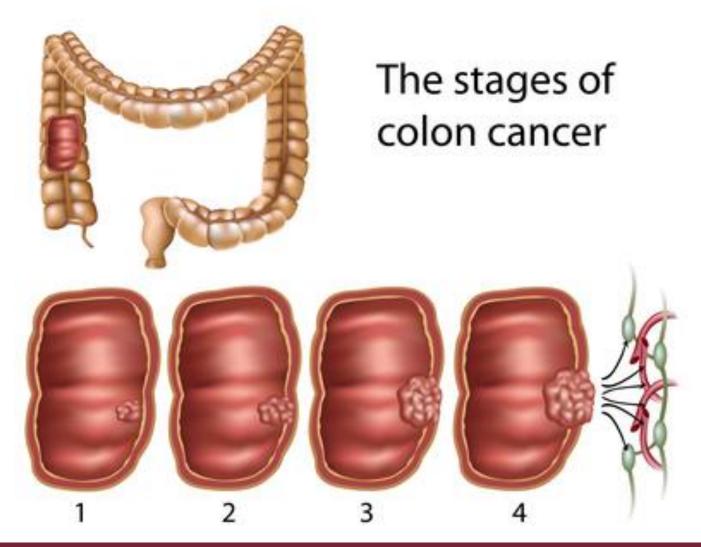
- Inflammation that's not visible to naked eye; seen under microscope
- Collagenous colitis: Accumulation of collagen in epithelium and connective tissue (lamina propria)
- Lymphocytic colitis: Accumulation of lymphocytes in lamina propria
- Causes: Viral, bacterial, toxic, or from medications
- Usually benign and short-lived
- Watery(not bloody) diarrhea
- Abdominal pain and cramping
- ➤ Bloating
- > Dehydration







# Serious Consequence of Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Colon Cancer





# Management of **Inflammatory Bowel Disease**



Diet



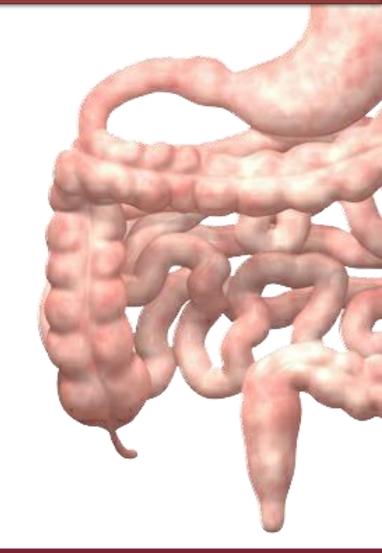
Lifestyle



Herbs



**Nutrients** 





# Interventions to Improve Inflammatory Bowel Disease

- ✓ Acupuncture
- ✓ Chiropractic adjustments
- ✓ Massage, bodywork, craniosacral therapy
- ✓ Energy medicine: reiki, magnetic therapy, EFT
- ✓ Enema and colonics
- ✓ Probiotic retention enema







# Lifestyle Habits to Improve Inflammatory Bowel Disease

- ✓ Food diary
- ✓ Avoid smoking
- ✓ Low intensity exercise, i.e., walking
- ✓ HeartMath
- ✓ Biofeedback
- √ Yoga
- ✓ Meditation
- ✓ Relaxation and breathing techniques
- ✓ Remove environmental toxins from home





# Dietary Habits to Improve Inflammatory Bowel Disease

- ✓ Eliminate dairy and gluten
- ✓ Eliminate all food allergens
- ✓ Eliminate refined carbohydrate and sugar
- ✓ Eliminate nightshades
- ✓ All-liquid diet: elemental diet, green juice, blended cooked vegetables
- ✓ Avoid foods high in insoluble fiber until healed (raw vegetables, grains)
- ✓ High-quality protein powder
- ✓ Omega-3 fats, i.e., flax seed and chia seed (oils or blended)
- ✓ Small meals, easy to digest foods
- ✓ Chew well or blend
- ✓ Sip water; stay hydrated
- ✓ Avoid sodas, caffeinated beverages, and fruit juice





# Anti-Inflammatory Herbs, Foods, and Nutrients That Help Heal The Gut

- ✓ Ginger
- ✓ Turmeric
- ✓ Licorice
- ✓ Chia seeds
- ✓ Flax seeds
- √ Hemp seeds
- ✓ Deep ocean fish
- ✓ Algae and sea greens
- ✓ Purslane
- ✓ Vitamin C
- ✓ Omega-3 fats
- Bromelain and other proteolytic enzymes



- ✓ Capsaicin-containing goods pepper
- ✓ Cinnamon
- ✓ Rosemary
- ✓ Basil
- ✓ Cardamom
- ✓ Chives
- ✓ Cilantro
- ✓ Cloves
- ✓ Garlic
- ✓ Parsley
- ✓ Boswelia
- ✓ Quercetin



# Demulcent Herbs and Foods - Soothe and Heal

#### What They Do:

- ✓ Soothe the GI tract
- ✓ Rebuild the mucous layer
- ✓ Anti-inflammatory
- ✓ Lubricate the digestive tract
- ✓ Nourish body fluids and tissues



#### **Common Herbs:**

- ✓ Chia seed
- ✓ Flax seed
- ✓ Licorice
- ✓ Marshmallow
- ✓ Slippery elm
- ✓ Comfrey
- ✓ Irish moss
- ✓ Cinnamon
- ✓ Chamomile
- ✓ Fenugreek
- ✓ Jujube dates
- ✓ Aloe vera gel
- ✓ Plantain
- ✓ Calendula
- ✓ Yarrow



### **Videos**

- ✓ Crohn's Disease in the Terminal Ileum Endoscopy
  - http://www.drritamarie.com/go/YouTubeCrohnsDiseaseTerminalIleum
- ✓ Colonoscopy with Diverticulosis and a Polyp
  - http://www.drritamarie.com/go/YouTubeColonoscopyDiverticulosisPolyp
- ✓ Colonoscopy of Crohn's Disease
  - http://www.drritamarie.com/go/YouTubeColonoscopyCrohns
- ✓ Colonoscopy of Ulcerative Colitis
  - http://www.drritamarie.com/go/YouTubeColonoscopyUlcerativeColitis
- ✓ Entertaining video on Digestion and IBD
  - http://www.drritamarie.com/go/YouTubeHowToStopIBSCrohnsAndUlcerativeCollitis



