

## INTRODUCTION

Biologic and immunosuppressive therapies are highly effective in the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).

Despite their efficacy, compliance with treatment is influenced by patients' perception of benefits versus medication-related risks.

Understanding these factors and their influence on patients' IBD medications decision-making are crucial for helping patients comply with their therapy during Covid-19 pandemic

## METHOD

We conducted an internet survey using the ICCF website and Meir Medical Center IBD clinic patients database.

The survey included questions regarding demographic details, severity of IBD, and questions regarding patients perspective of COVID-19 pandemic effect on their disease.

## OBJECTIVES

To assess patient's perception and concerns regarding biologic and immunosuppressive treatments during Covid-19 pandemic in Israel

## RESULTS

		Number (%)
<b>Number</b>		117
<b>Male/Female</b>		46/68 (60/40)
<b>Age</b>		
<b>Crohn's/colitis</b>		38/77 (67/33)
<b>Smoking status:</b>	No	78 (69)
	Yes	18 (16)
	In the past	19 (15)
<b>Current disease activity</b>	Remission	47 (41)
	Mild	36 (30)
	Moderate	23 (20)
	Severe	9 (8)
<b>Treatment</b>	Steroids	
	Thiopurins	20 (18)
	Biologics	74 (65)

### IBD and COVID-19 treatment perception:

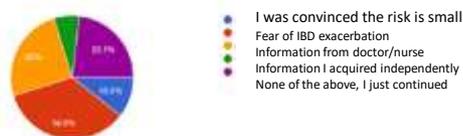
- 23 (21%) patients thought their treatment exposes them to increased risk to Covid-19
- 7 (5.1%) expressed concern about arriving for treatment at the infusion center
- Only 4 (3.6%) patients stopped IBD treatment due to fear of COVID-19 (CD, n=1; UC, n=3) all reported having 'mild disease'

### IBD and COVID-19 risk perception

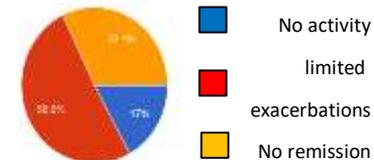
Q: During the pandemic, are you at increased risk for Corona virus infection due to your IBD?



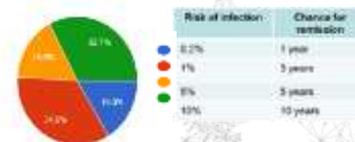
Q: If you didn't stop treatment, what persuaded you to continue?



### Disease activity in the last 3 years



Q: Theoretically, if you had the possibility to receive a medicine that may induce remission but would increase the risk of infection, which would be the most acceptable possibility?



## CONCLUSIONS

Most IBD patients, despite their fear of COVID19, felt secure enough not to stop their treatment. Only 4% actually stopped their treatment

Understanding and addressing patients' perceptions and concerns regarding the risks associated with their IBD and their IBD-related treatment during infectious disease (e.g. COVID 19) pandemics is important for preventing patients from stopping treatment