

Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed the edited manuscript in Word format

Title: IBD patient profiles are related to specific information needs - A nationwide survey

Name of Journal: World journal of Gastroenterology

The manuscript has been improved according to the suggestions of the reviewers and editor.

Thank you for providing us with the comments to improve our manuscript and we hope that you will find it suitable finally for publication in your journal.

Sincerely yours,

Saleh Daher, MD

Corresponding author

Reviewer #1:

It is a great chance to review this manuscript on information characteristics needed by IBD patients according to the situations where they situated. This manuscript is well written and very informative enough. Aim of the study is clear and results are also clear and " the study demonstrates large information gaps among IBD patients. While it is imperative to ask individuals what information they want in order to supply their specific information needs accordingly, there are many patients, especially at disease onset that are not fully aware what to ask regarding their disease. This "study demonstrates that different patient characteristics drive specific information needs. With the use of machine learning and advanced bioinformatics we plan to utilize the data that were acquired to develop a web-based resource for IBD patients. By analyzing simple clinical and demographic parameters that are introduced by the patients, this platform would be able to suggest specific items that were shown in this study to be of high interest in a large cohort of patients, and thus provide personalized information."

Comment: There is a lack on the concrete presentation of 28 questions patients received and these items should be shown in supplemental materials. Also concrete presentations of programs of information in internet in the country or in English speaking countries.

Answer: the authors accept the comment. The whole questionnaire was added in the supplementary material in the local language (Hebrew). In addition, a list of the 28 items written in English was added to the supplementary material. In the introduction section we added two examples of internet-based information needed for patients with IBD.

Reviewer #2:

This is an interesting study evaluating whether patients suffering from a chronic condition such as IBD receive from their health care providers satisfactory information about several aspects of their disease. Based on this nation-wide survey there are several needs which are unmet among IBD patient. A better knowledge of how doctors should inform patients about their disease might help building a more appropriate doctor-patient relationship thus providing a more solid base for the management of the disease. In my opinion this study is interesting, clinically relevant, well written and deserves publication in the Journal

Answer: the authors would like to thank reviewer number 2 for his valuable review.

Reviewer #3:

Saleh Daher et al (Manuscript Number: 47246) try to investigating the relationships between “IBD patient profiles” and “specific information needs”. This topic is interesting. 1. The readability, logic, and presentation of the key idea are good. The importance of this work is impressive. 2. This article is written according to the guiding for authors of World Journal of Gastroenterology. 3.

Comment: On the section of Results, I recommend authors to delete the text description which were displayed in the graphs or tables. 4.

Answer: Dear reviewer, thank you for your comment. As our study utilized a large set of questions (28), that addressed information needs at two time-points (currently and at diagnosis), and as factor analysis has yielded ten domains in total, this resulted in large body of information presented in the tables and graphs, and we thought that it is imperative to quote what we perceived as the most significant and interesting findings in the text, so the reader can have a glimpse of our main findings without referring to the detailed tables.

Comment: On the section of Discussion, the authors should discuss the new insights of their work compared with previous studies.

Answer: Dear reviewer, thank you for your comment. We already addressed this issue in the discussion section. As we wrote in the discussion, previous studies have not explored whether different patient characteristics drive specific information needs. We detailed in the results and discussion how specific patients’ profiles (stratified by disease duration, disease activity, surgical history, type of medical therapy, etc.....,) drive unique information needs among IBD patients