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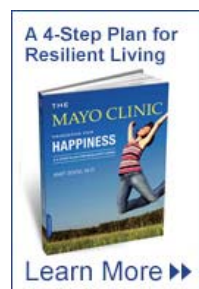
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Symptoms

By Mayo Clinic Staff

In some people with Crohn's disease, only the last segment of the small intestine (ileum) is affected. In others, the disease is confined to the colon (part of the large intestine). The most common areas affected by Crohn's disease are the last part of the small intestine and the colon.

Signs and symptoms of Crohn's disease can range from mild to severe. They usually develop gradually, but sometimes will come on suddenly, without warning. You may also have periods of time when you have no signs or symptoms (remission).

When the disease is active, signs and symptoms may include:

- **Diarrhea.** Diarrhea is a common problem for people with Crohn's disease. Intensified intestinal cramping also can contribute to loose stools.
- **Fever and fatigue.** Many people with Crohn's disease experience a low-grade fever, likely due to inflammation or infection. You may also feel tired or have low energy.
- **Abdominal pain and cramping.** Inflammation and ulceration can affect the normal movement of contents through your digestive tract and may lead to pain and cramping. You may experience anything from slight discomfort to severe pain, including nausea and vomiting.
- **Blood in your stool.** You might notice bright red blood in the

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Small intestine

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toilet bowl or darker blood mixed with your stool. You can also have bleeding you don't see (occult blood).

- **Mouth sores.** You may have ulcers in your mouth similar to canker sores.
- **Reduced appetite and weight loss.** Abdominal pain and cramping and the inflammatory reaction in the wall of your bowel can affect both your appetite and your ability to digest and absorb food.
- **Perianal disease.** You might have pain or drainage near or around the anus due to inflammation from a tunnel into the skin (fistula).

Other signs and symptoms

People with severe Crohn's disease may also experience:

- Inflammation of skin, eyes and joints
- Inflammation of the liver or bile ducts
- Delayed growth or sexual development, in children

When to see a doctor

See your doctor if you have persistent changes in your bowel habits or if you have any of the signs and symptoms of Crohn's disease, such as:

- Abdominal pain
- Blood in your stool
- Ongoing bouts of diarrhea that don't respond to over-the-counter (OTC) medications
- Unexplained fever lasting more than a day or two
- Unexplained weight loss

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