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Crohn's disease

REVIEWED*By Chris Tighe at 2:24 pm, Feb 01, 2017*[Print](#)[Basics](#)[Care at Mayo Clinic](#)[In-Depth](#)[Expert Answers](#)[Multimedia](#)[Resources](#)

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Definition

By Mayo Clinic Staff

Crohn's disease is an inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). It causes inflammation of the lining of your digestive tract, which can lead to abdominal pain, severe diarrhea, fatigue, weight loss and malnutrition. Inflammation caused by Crohn's disease can involve different areas of the digestive tract in different people.

The inflammation caused by Crohn's disease often spreads deep into the layers of affected bowel tissue. Crohn's disease can be both painful and debilitating, and sometimes may lead to life-threatening complications.

While there's no known cure for Crohn's disease, therapies can greatly reduce its signs and symptoms and even bring about long-term remission.

With treatment, many people with Crohn's disease are able to function well.

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Colon and rectum

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