

Pediatric IBD GLOSSARY

Abscess	A pocket or collection of pus.
Albumin	A protein that is measured in blood tests. The level is a good indicator of overall nutrition.
5-aminosalicylic acid (5-ASA)	The active component of mesalamine.
Anemia	Lower than normal amounts of hemoglobin in the red cells of the blood.
Ankylosing Spondylitis	A form of spinal arthritis sometimes found in children with IBD, and which sometimes causes fusion of the joints of the spine.
Arthralgia	Pains in the joints, often found in children with IBD.
Arthritis	Inflammation of a joint, accompanied by pain, swelling, heat, or redness.
Autoimmunity	An inflammatory reaction to one's own tissues.
Barium Enema	An x-ray examination of the colon and rectum after liquid barium has been infused through the rectum.
Biopsy	A small piece of tissue taken from the body for examination under the microscope.
CAT Scan	See CT scan
Clinical	Involving the direct observation and treatment of patients.
Colectomy	Removal of part or all of the colon.
Colon	The large intestine.
Colonoscopy	A test in which a flexible, lighted tube is inserted through the rectum to examine the colon.
Colostomy	A surgically created opening of the colon to a hole in abdominal wall for waste to pass through.
Comprehensive Metabolic Panel (CMP)	A lab test which allows for the measurement of 12 blood chemistries from a single blood sample.
CT Scan	Abbreviation for Computed Tomography Scan. A specialized type of x-ray study.

Discharge Summary	A note written by your child's healthcare provider at the end of a hospital stay. The summary any tests or operations performed, all laboratory information, your child's condition, and plans for follow-up care.
Distal	Closer to the anus; downstream.
Distension	An uncomfortable swelling in the abdomen, often caused by excessive amounts of gas and fluids in the intestine. Bloating.
E. nodosum	Or Erythema nodosum. Red swellings occasionally seen on the lower legs during flare-ups of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.
Edema	Pockets of large amounts of fluid in the tissues, resulting in swelling.
Elemental Diet	A specially made liquid meal that is hypoallergenic and will not cause an allergic reaction.
Electrolytes	Acids, bases, and salts essential for maintaining life.
Endoscopy	An examination of the inside of a hollow organ, such as the bowel using special lighted tubes.
Erythema Nodosum	Red swellings occasionally seen on the lower legs during flare-ups of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.
ESR	Erythrocyte sedimentation rate. A type of blood test that measures levels of inflammation in the body.
Exacerbation	An aggravation of symptoms or an increase in disease activity. When symptoms get worse.
Excision	Surgical removal. When something is removed from the body with surgery.
Febrile	Running a fever.
Fissure	A crack in the skin; usually near the area of the anus in Crohn's disease.
Fistula	An abnormal connection between two locations in the body, such as loops of intestine, or between the intestine and another structure, such as the bladder, vagina, or skin.
Folic Acid	One of the vitamins responsible for the maintenance of red blood cells.

Fulminant	Disease that develops with very quickly.
Gastroenterologist	A doctor who is specially trained to find and treat patients with gastrointestinal diseases like Pedi IBD.
GI	Abbreviation for gastrointestinal.
Granuloma	Microscopic collections of cells often found in children with Crohn's disease.
Gut	Another word for intestine or bowel.
Hematocrit	A measure of the number of red blood cells. Low levels are seen with anemia. (HCT)
Hemoglobin	The molecule in red blood cells that carries oxygen. Low levels of hemoglobin result in anemia.
Hemorrhage	Abnormally heavy bleeding.
Hemorrhoids	Painful, dilated veins of the lower rectum /anus, that can be a complication in children with Pedi IBD.
Hyperalimentation	A way of giving children more nutritional support through a vein so they can take in the amount of nutrients and calories they need to grow and thrive. Also known as total parenteral nutrition (TPN).
Idiopathic	Of unknown cause.
Ileoanal Anastomosis	A newer operation for ulcerative colitis (also known as the pull-through) in which an inside pouch is created after colectomy. Because the rectal tube is not taken out, the patient continues to evacuate or have bowel movements through the anus.
Ileostomy	A surgically created opening of the abdominal wall to the ileum, letting fecal waste pass through.
Ileum	The lower third of the small intestine, adjoining the colon.
Ileus	Temporary paralysis of the bowel, often resulting from surgery, abdominal infection, or electrolyte imbalance.
Immunomodulators	Drugs that change the body's immune response.
Incontinence	In IBD, it is when a patient has uncontrolled bowel movement, usually because of rectal inflammation.
Inflammatory	A term for both Crohn's disease + ulcerative

Bowel Disease	colitis.
Intractable	When treatment cannot control or manage the disease.
Intravenous	Into the vein.
Irritable Bowel Syndrome	A change in the movement of the small/ large intestine causing diarrhea and abdominal discomfort. Sometimes mistakenly called "spastic colitis," this condition does not cause inflammation of the colon and has no relationship to IBD.
Lactase Deficiency/ Lactose Intolerance	A condition of too little of the enzyme lactase in the bowel that helps with the digestion of milk sugar (lactose).
Lactose Breath Test	A test where the patient drinks a liquid of milk sugars. Breath samples are then taken over a period of time to see if there is too little lactase in the bowel.
Leukocytosis	An increased number of white blood cells in the blood. This can be a sign of infection.
Mesalamine	The generic name for 5-ASA, a relatively nontoxic and well-tolerated drug used to treat inflamed intestine.
Motility	Movement of the muscles that move food through the intestinal tract or bowel.
Mucus	A clear or whitish substance produced by the intestine, which may be found in the stool.
Nasogastric Tube	A thin, flexible tube passed through the nose or the mouth. Used to remove liquids and air that collect in the stomach when the bowel is obstructed or after intestinal surgery, or to deliver nutrients into the stomach. (NG Tube)
Obstruction	A blockage of the small or large intestine that does not allow food and fluids to pass normally through the intestine.
Occult Blood	Blood in the stool that cannot be seen with the human eye, can be a sign of disease activity. Simple lab tests can look for and find occult blood in a stool sample.
Operative Report	A complete record of any operation written by the surgeon after surgery.

Ostomy	A surgically created way for waste to leave the body, such as a colostomy.
Pathogen	A bacterium or virus that can cause disease.
Pathogenesis	The cause and progress of disease.
Pathology Report	Results of examination of any tissues removed from your child's body at operation or biopsy.
Perforation	Formation of a hole in the bowel wall, allowing intestinal contents to enter the abdominal cavity.
Perianal	The area around the anal opening. This area may become inflamed and irritated in children with IBD.
Peristalsis	Normal rhythmic movements of the stomach and intestine.
Peristomal	The area immediately surrounding the stoma.
Peritonitis	Inflammation of the peritoneum (the membrane around the abdominal organs), that is usually the result of an intestinal perforation.
Proctectomy	Removal of the rectum.
Proctitis	Inflammation of the rectum.
Proctocolectomy	Removal of the entire colon and rectum.
Progress Notes	A daily record of your child's progress, test results, etc., written by your child's healthcare providers.
Prolapse	When an organ, such as the rectum or stoma, falls lower than it's original place in the body.
Proximal	Closer to the mouth.
Regional Enteritis	Another name for Crohn's disease affecting the small intestine.
Remission	A time when symptoms are under control and your child is feeling well.
Resection	Surgical removal of a diseased portion of intestine.
Reservoir	A surgically created pouch, made from the distal ileum, which collects waste.
Short Bowel Syndrome	A condition in which so much diseased bowel has been surgically removed that the remaining intestine is too short to take in enough nutrients for good health.

Sigmoidoscopy	A test in which a lighted tube is passed through the rectum into the sigmoid colon.
Small Bowel	Small intestine.
Sphincter	A ring of muscle tissue keeping certain sections of the digestive tract, like the anus, closed.
Stenosis	A narrowing of an area such as the small intestine
Stoma	A surgically created opening of the bowel onto the skin, the result of ostomy surgery.
Stricture	A narrowed area of intestine caused by active inflammation or scar tissue.
Strictureplasty	A surgical procedure that widens narrowed areas of intestine (strictures).
Subtotal Colectomy	Removal of part or most of the colon, leaving a part (usually the rectum) intact.
Sutures	Materials used in surgery to rejoin cut tissues.
Tenesmus	A frequent urge to empty the bowel, usually caused by inflammation of the rectum.
Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN)	The intravenous infusion of all nutrients through a catheter placed in a large vein near the collarbone. Also known as hyperalimentation.
Upper G.I. Series (UGI)	An x-ray exam of the esophagus, stomach, and duodenum performed in the fasting patients after the ingestion of liquid barium.
X-ray Reports	Results of diagnostic x-rays.

Glossary sources include our friends at NASPGHAN, the NIH and the NIDDK.