The Pediatric Patient

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Children account for approximately 25% of all IBD cases. The median age at diagnosis is 11 years. Crohn’s disease (CD) is primarily seen in children of school age, outnumbering ulcerative colitis (UC) by approximately 3 to 1, but in children of preschool age, UC or IBD unspecified (IBDU) is as frequent as CD. Although the clinical manifestations of IBD among children or adults may be very similar, key features of pediatric-onset disease distinguish this population as unique.

I. Conditions to Consider

- Growth failure
- Pubertal delay
- Proximal small bowel involvement
- Medication adherence
- Complex communication matrix
- Fear of procedures
- Depression and anxiety
- School absenteeism