Last month’s issue on inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) introduced the RI-specific OSCCAR (Ocean State Crohn’s and Colitis Area Registry) study, and reviewed IBD epidemiology, medical treatment, imaging advances, surgery for ulcerative colitis (UC), and surgery for Crohn’s disease (CD). As noted in last month’s issue, IBD includes UC and CD and is distinct from Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) though some symptoms may overlap.

This issue continues the focus on IBD. The lead article highlights specific emergencies/presentations in a case-based format; in the next two articles, bone disease in IBD and steroids’ effects on bone health are reviewed; next nutrition and pediatric issues in IBD treatment are discussed; the final article reviews reproductive issues in IBD. Our hope is that these two issues will (1) provide a practical update for all clinicians involved in caring for patients with IBD and (2) publicize the OSCCAR study, which is gathering groundbreaking information on IBD. This inception cohort of IBD patients not only gives us data on the incidence of IBD in the US, but allows us to examine clinical factors, genes, and bowel flora. Thus we may be able to improve risk stratification of IBD patients to target therapy and achieve better outcomes for our patients.

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