Author’s response to reviews

Title: Presenting Symptoms in Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Descriptive Analysis of a Community-Based Inception Cohort

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Author’s response to reviews:

Reviewer 1:

1. To allow completion of assessment of statistical analysis, please add Figure 4 (missing from the manuscript)

Response – Figure 4 was in the manuscript, but out of order so it was moved to the appropriate place under Figure 4 on page 36.

Reviewer 2:

1. What were the exact criteria for CD and UC diagnosis? Since the main aim was to define the profile of initial symptoms in IBD, the reader should know, which patient was classified as IBD patient, and in which cases the data for the diagnosis were not sufficient.
Response – Diagnoses were confirmed using criteria established by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases IBD Genetic Consortium. The reflective changes are in the Methods section on lines 39-47 of page 6. Additionally, the IBD phenotype operating manual was added to supplemental materials that can be found page 37. Reference 14 was replaced with the phenotype operating manual and the changes are in the Reference section on lines 13-19 of page 26.

2. How were the data collected - retrospectively or prospectively? This was not clearly presented in the methods section. In case of retrospective data collection, the results of the study could be significantly biased.

Response – All data were collected prospectively. The manuscript now reflects these changes which can be found in the Methods section on lines 28 and 49 of page 6.

Formatting changes were completed as follows -

1. A Discussion section was added starting on line 16 of page 9 with reflective changes in the Conclusion starting on line 50 of page 10.

2. All Figures were removed from within the manuscript and uploaded individually.

3. A Figure Legend section was created starting on line 42 of page 26.

4. All Supplemental Material was removed from within the manuscript and uploaded individually.

Thank you for your time in reviewing this manuscript and suggesting thoughtful revisions to improve upon the paper.

Sincerely,

Bryce Perler