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## **Crohn's Disease**

Crohn's Disease is an inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). It is a chronic disorder that creates inflammation of the lining of the digestive tract (also known as the GI tract). It can affect any area from the mouth to the rectum, but most commonly affects the lower part of the small intestine. The disease causes inflammation and swelling deep into the affected area, causing pain that can make the intestines empty frequently, resulting in diarrhea.

Crohn's Disease may be difficult to diagnose because the symptoms, including abdominal pain and diarrhea, are so similar to other intestinal disorders. Bleeding from the rectum, joint pain, weight loss and skin problems are other symptoms. Crohn's disease can be both painful and debilitating, and sometimes may lead to life-threatening complications.

Presently, there is no known cure for Crohn's disease. There are therapies that can greatly reduce the signs and symptoms of Crohn's disease and even bring about long-term remission. With treatment, many people with Crohn's disease are able to function well.