Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) Overview



Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) is a disorder of gut-brain interaction defined by abdominal pain and disordered defecation.¹ Bloating and distension are also common symptoms, but not required for diagnosis. 1 IBS affects ~5% of the US population, with higher rates in women.^{2,3}

Symptoms and Diagnosis



SYMPTOMS (ROME IV)¹

- Recurrent abdominal pain ≥1 day/week on average, associated with ≥2 of the following: defecation, change in stool form, change in stool frequency
- Bloating and distension are frequently reported, but not required for diagnosis

ONSET AND DURATION (ROME IV)1

- Onset ≥6 months before diagnosis
- Present during previous 3 months

MODIFIED DIAGNOSTIC CRITERIA FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE

- Nature of symptoms corresponds with those in Rome IV criteria⁴
- If symptoms are bothersome and other conditions have been sufficiently ruled out, only ≥8-week duration is required for diagnosis⁴



Positive diagnostic strategy is strongly recommended to improve time to initiate appropriate therapy and cost effectiveness⁵

Subtype Classification •

Classified as IBS with diarrhea (IBS-D), mixed bowel habits (IBS-M), constipation (IBS-C), or unclassified (IBS-U)¹

- Determined based on patient's predominant bowel habit on days with ≥1 abnormal bowel movement¹
- An estimated 35% of US IBS cases are IBS-D, 30% are IBS-M, 29% are IBS-C, and 5% are IBS-U³

Predominant bowel pattern

IBS-D IBS-M IBS-C IBS-U Loose/watery Both loose/watery + Hard/lumpy Cannot be categorized stool form hard/lumpy stool form stool form as other subtypes

Treatment Patterns^{6*}

of adults with GI symptoms consistent with IBS-D met diagnostic criteria for IBS-D but had not received a diagnosis†

26% AND 43%

of diagnosed[‡] and undiagnosed patients, respectively, were not currently receiving treatment

20% AND 18%

of diagnosed[‡] and undiagnosed patients, respectively, reported satisfaction with treatment

Pathophysiology of IBS

Involves changes in the interactions between the GI tract, GI microbiome, immune system, and nervous system⁷

Contributing factors⁷



Genetics



Prior GI Infection



GI dysbiosis





Psychological factors

GI dysbiosis8

- Increase in potentially harmful bacteria and byproducts
- Decrease in beneficial bacteria and byproducts
- Imbalance in Firmicutes and Bacteroidetes

Increased intestinal permeability



Consequences of dysbiosis8



K Can lead to immune system activation, inflammation, and altered GI motility8



May be associated with anxiety and depression9

^{*}Survey data (September 1-15, 2014) from 1924 US individuals aged ≥18 years who had experienced GI symptoms consistent with IBS-D. †Individuals who had symptoms consistent with IBS (Rome III criteria) based on survey responses but had not received a diagnosis from a healthcare provider (57%; n/N=1094/1924).

^{1.} Lacy BE, et al. Gastroenterology. 2016;150(6):1393-1407. 2. Sperber AD, et al. Gastroenterology. 2021;160(1):99-114.e3. 3. Palsson OS, et al. Gastroenterology. 2020;158(5):1262-1273.e3. 4. Drossman DA, Tack J. Gastroenterology. 2022;162(3):675-679. 5. Lacy BE, et al. Am J Gastroenterol. 2021;116(1):17-44. 6. Sayuk GS, et al. Am J Gastroenterol. 2017;112(6):892-899. 7. Ghaffari P, et al. J Transl Med. 2022;20(1):173. 8. Saleem MM, et al. Cureus. 2025;17(4):e83084. 9. Holtmann GJ, et al. Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2016;1(2):133-146.