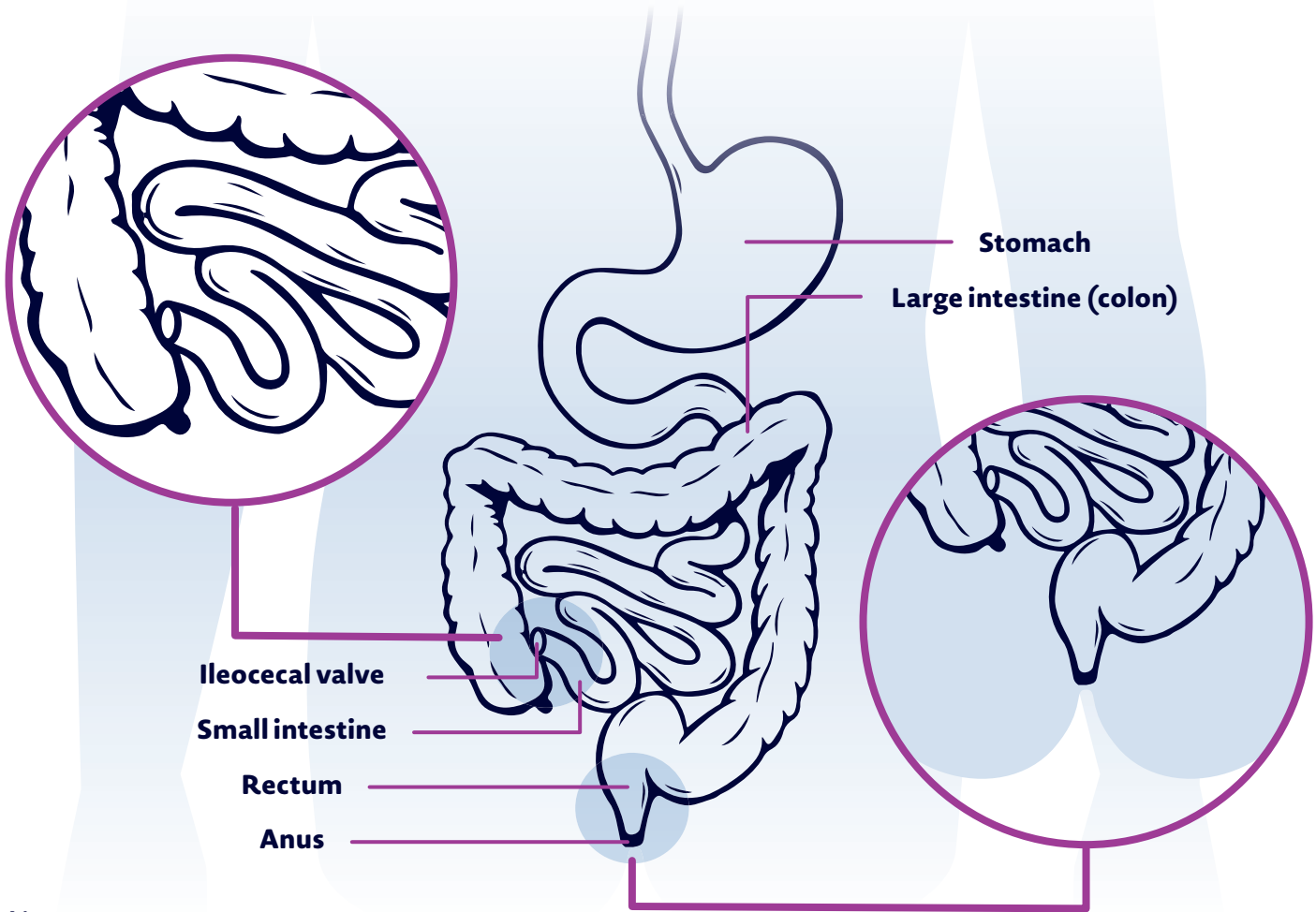


CROHN'S DISEASE (CD) IS A CHRONIC ILLNESS CAUSING INFLAMMATION OF THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM

CD can affect different parts of the digestive tract



Notes

Symptoms may include:

- Diarrhea
- Abdominal pain/cramping
- Blood in stool
- Mouth sores
- Reduced appetite
- Weight loss
- Fever
- Fatigue
- Other parts of the body (extra-intestinal manifestations)
 - Joint pain
- Eye inflammation (uveitis)
- Back pain (spondyloarthritis)
- Skin conditions (such as erythema nodosum)

Complications of CD may include:

Bowel obstruction

CD thickens the intestinal wall. Over time, the bowel can scar and narrow, which may block the flow of digestive contents.

Ulcers

Chronic inflammation can lead to open sores (ulcers) anywhere in the digestive tract.

Fistulas

Holes or tunnels caused by ulcers that form an abnormal connection between different body parts (e.g. the bladder, vagina, skin, or other parts of the intestine). Fistulas near or around the anal area (perianal) are the most common kind.

Anal fissure

A small tear in the tissue lining the anus or in the skin around the anus where infections can occur.

TREATMENT GOALS IN CD

Treatment aims in CD include:

- Achieve and maintain mucosal healing
- Achieve control over symptoms
- Improve quality of life
- Minimize short- and long-term complications

It's possible to have bowel inflammation without experiencing any symptoms of inflammatory bowel disease.