

## **MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGHS** **RESEARCH SUMMARY**

TOPIC: EASING PAIN: HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY TREATS SEVERE COLITIS  
REPORT: MB #5084

**BACKGROUND:** Colitis is a chronic digestive disease characterized by inflammation of the inner lining of the colon. Infection, loss of blood supply in the colon, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) and invasion of the colon wall with collagen or lymphocytic white blood cells are all possible causes of an inflamed colon. In the United States, about 1 million people are affected with ulcerative colitis (UC). The annual incidence is 10.4-12 cases per 100,000 people, and the prevalence rate is 35-100 cases per 100,000 people. Ulcerative colitis is three times more common than Crohn's disease.

(Source: <https://www.gwhospital.com/colitis#:~:text=Colitis%20is%20a%20chronic%20digestive,causes%20of%20an%20inflamed%20colon>.  
<https://www.medscape.com/answers/183084-13777/what-are-the-prevalence-and-incidence-rates-of-ulcerative-colitis-uc-in-the-us>)

**DIAGNOSING:** Ulcerative colitis symptoms can vary, depending on the severity of inflammation and where it occurs. Signs and symptoms may include diarrhea (often with blood or pus), abdominal pain and cramping, rectal pain or bleeding, urgency to defecate, inability to defecate despite urgency, weight loss, fatigue, and fever. A doctor may ask about the frequency of your symptoms and when they first started. The doctor will perform a thorough physical exam and use diagnostic tests such as a colonoscopy, stool samples, MRI or CT scans, or an ultrasound.

(Source: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/ulcerative-colitis/symptoms-causes/syc-20353326>  
<https://www.healthline.com/health/colitis#diagnosis>)

**NEW TECHNOLOGY:** On May 27, Bristol Myers Squibb officials announced that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Zeposia (ozanimod) for treatment of moderate to severe active ulcerative colitis in adults. Dr. Rudolph Bedford, a gastroenterologist at Providence Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica, told health reporters that Zeposia is a potential game changer for people with ulcerative colitis who don't respond to traditional therapies. Zeposia is an oral medication taken once a day. The dose is 0.92 milligrams.

(Source: <https://www.healthline.com/health-news/fda-approves-new-drug-for-ulcerative-colitis#What-you-need-to-know>)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS REPORT, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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**If this story or any other Ivanhoe story has impacted your life or prompted you or someone you know to seek or change treatments, please let us know by contacting Marjorie Bekaert Thomas at [mthomas@ivanhoe.com](mailto:mthomas@ivanhoe.com)**