

Answers to the reviewer comments

A description of the proportion of paediatric cases presenting with IBD in KSA. Its strength is the fact that it is a nationwide survey and covers a nation early in the evolution of the current IBD epidemic affecting developed countries. Its weaknesses stem from the lack of information about the IBD cases.

1. It seems unlikely that conventional IBD would present in a 4 month old baby. An inherited immune disorder is more likely.

Answer: Agree. IBD is very rare in infants. However in this series, immune deficiency was excluded.

2. Frequency histograms of the ages of presentation of the CD and UC would be valuable as would frequency histograms in the under and over 10 yr groups for BMI at presentation.

Answer: Histogram provided and inserted in the text as Figure 1.

3. Analysis by Montreal classification if available would also be valuable.

Answer: Not available.

4. Then questions could begin to be answered such as is there a bimodal distribution of BMIs at presentation etc and would provide a better understanding of what the data means rather than just that some IBD patients are overweight at presentation and that this is more common in UC.

Answer: No clear pattern of BMI distribution found.