A SPECIALIZED IBD UNIT INFUSION CENTER IS PREFERRED BY PATIENTS
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Introduction: An increasing amount of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) patients are receiving therapies given by intravenous (IV) infusion. Infusion centers administer a large range of IV therapies to a broad variety of medical conditions. An infusion center located in the IBD unit is specialized both for IBD patients and for their specific treatments.

Aim: To determine satisfaction of IBD patients treated in the IBD unit compared to their experience in a generalized infusion center.

Methods: A prospective longitudinal study was conducted over a 3-month period in one new specialized IBD unit infusion center at the digestive disease institute, Shaare-Zedek Medical Center. 28 patients fulfilled the inclusion criteria. All participants were treated prior to inclusion in a general infusion center. They all had to reply to a questionnaire. The questions related to their general satisfaction, preference of infusion center and the reasons for this preference.

Results: 18 (64%) of patients were men, 20 (71%) had Ulcerative Colitis, and Infliximab and Vedolizumab were given evenly to 50% each. 27 (96%) patients preferred the IBD unit, when the main reasons included: Medical staff more available (68%), Medical staff is familiar with my condition (61%), and familiar location (64%). Other reasons, including shorter infusion time, professional staff, better knowledge of medical situation and medication side effects were all mentioned for this preference. 22 (79%) patients mentioned the location to be an extremely important factor. 26 (93%) of participants said that this location had a positive effect on their disease, and 25 (89%) also emphasized the specialized IBD nurse to have a great deal impact on their feeling. 16 (57%) of patients rated very positively the interaction with other patients with IBD.

Conclusions: A specialized IBD unit infusion center is highly rated by IBD patients. This model offers many advantages over the conventional generalized infusion centers.