

Neurogenic Bowel Dysfunction: A Healthcare Disparity

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Background and AIM

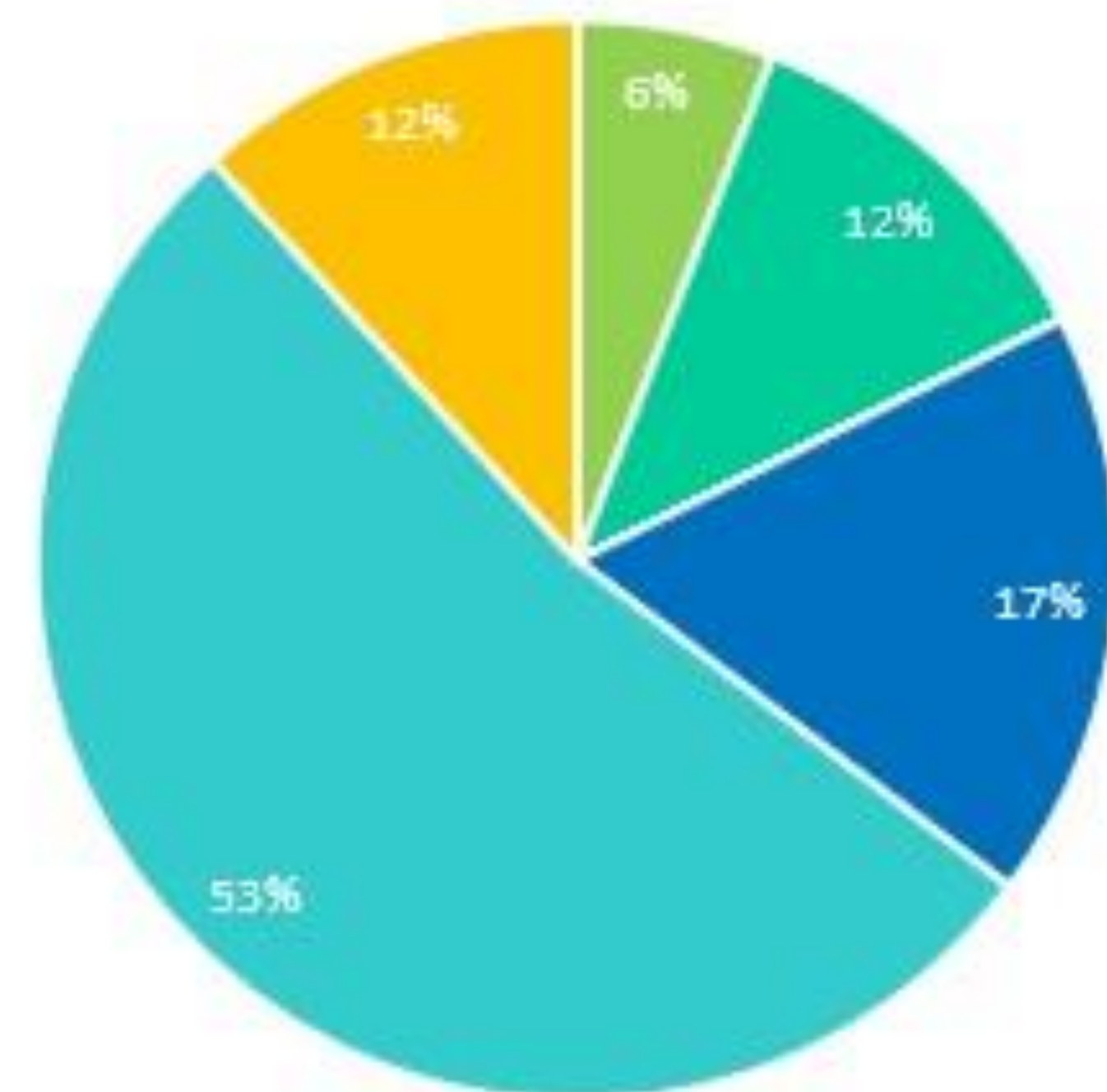
- Peristeen is a manual transanal bowel irrigation system designed for patients (pts) with neurogenic bowel dysfunction (NBD) suffering from chronic constipation and fecal incontinence.
- This control pump with water irrigation has been shown to improve symptom-related quality of life (QOL) and time spent on defecation.
- Despite its benefits, the insurance coverage for Peristeen depends on the pts specific insurance plan. Currently there is no Medicare benefit for the Peristeen, all claims are denied as non-covered with no Medicare benefit and separate billing for individual components is not allowed.
- We aimed to evaluate the insurance coverage for Peristeen amongst our neurogenic bowel pts referred to a tertiary care practice.

Methods and Materials

- A retrospective, single-center, analysis (December 2019-March 2022) of 45 pts enrolled in Peristeen was performed.
- Variables within the prescription form include primary and secondary insurance coverage and diagnosis code.
- All diagnostic ICD 10 codes were Neurogenic Bowel, K59.2. One nurse completed all forms.
- The percentage of pts approved and denied by insurance type was reported in graphical form by creation of a two-by-six contingency table in SPSS after recording of data.

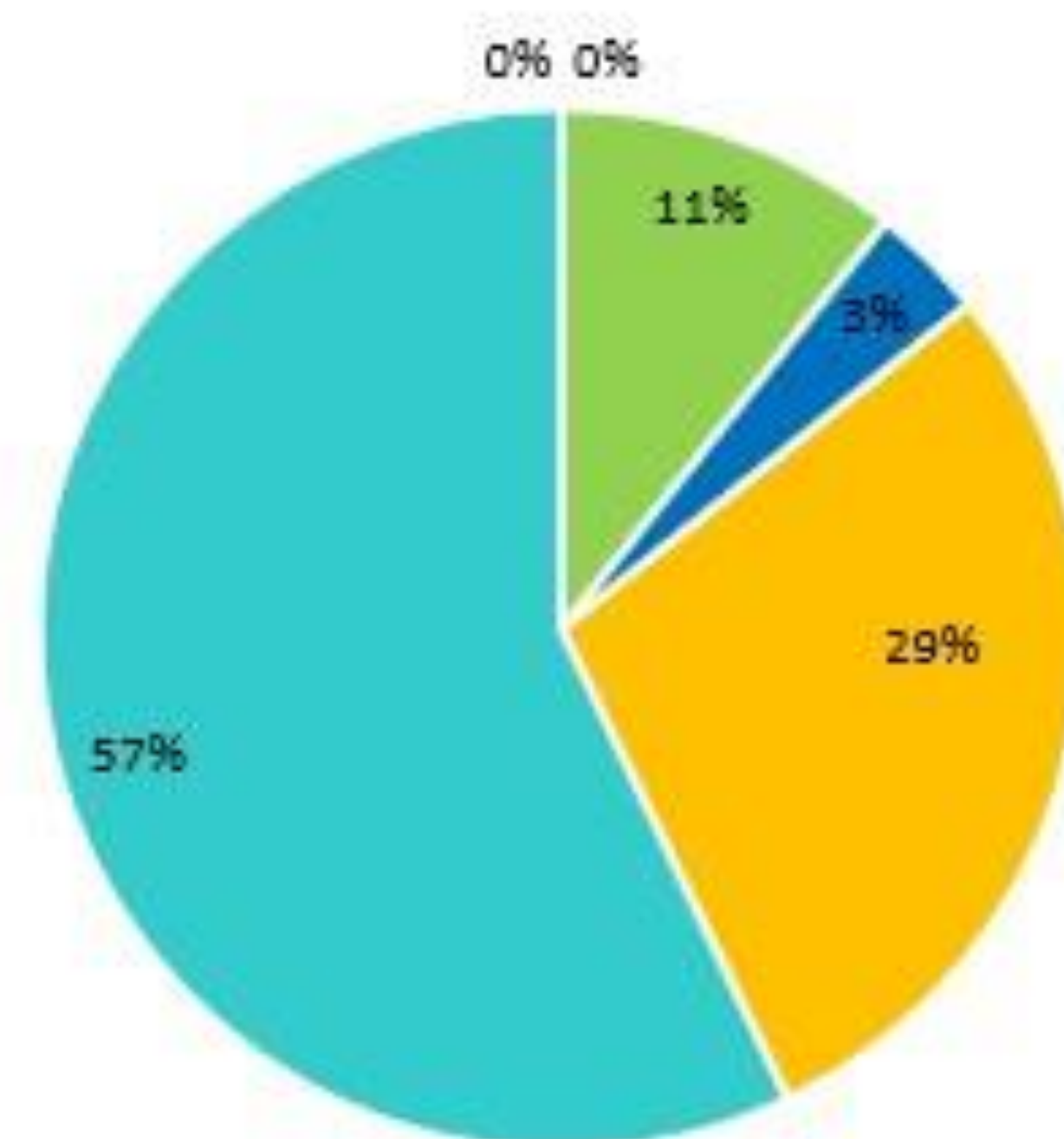


Percent of Patients Denied By Insurance Type



■ No Insurance ■ Medicare ■ Medicaid ■ Medicare/Medicaid ■ Medicare/Private ■ Private

Percent of Patients Approved By Insurance Type

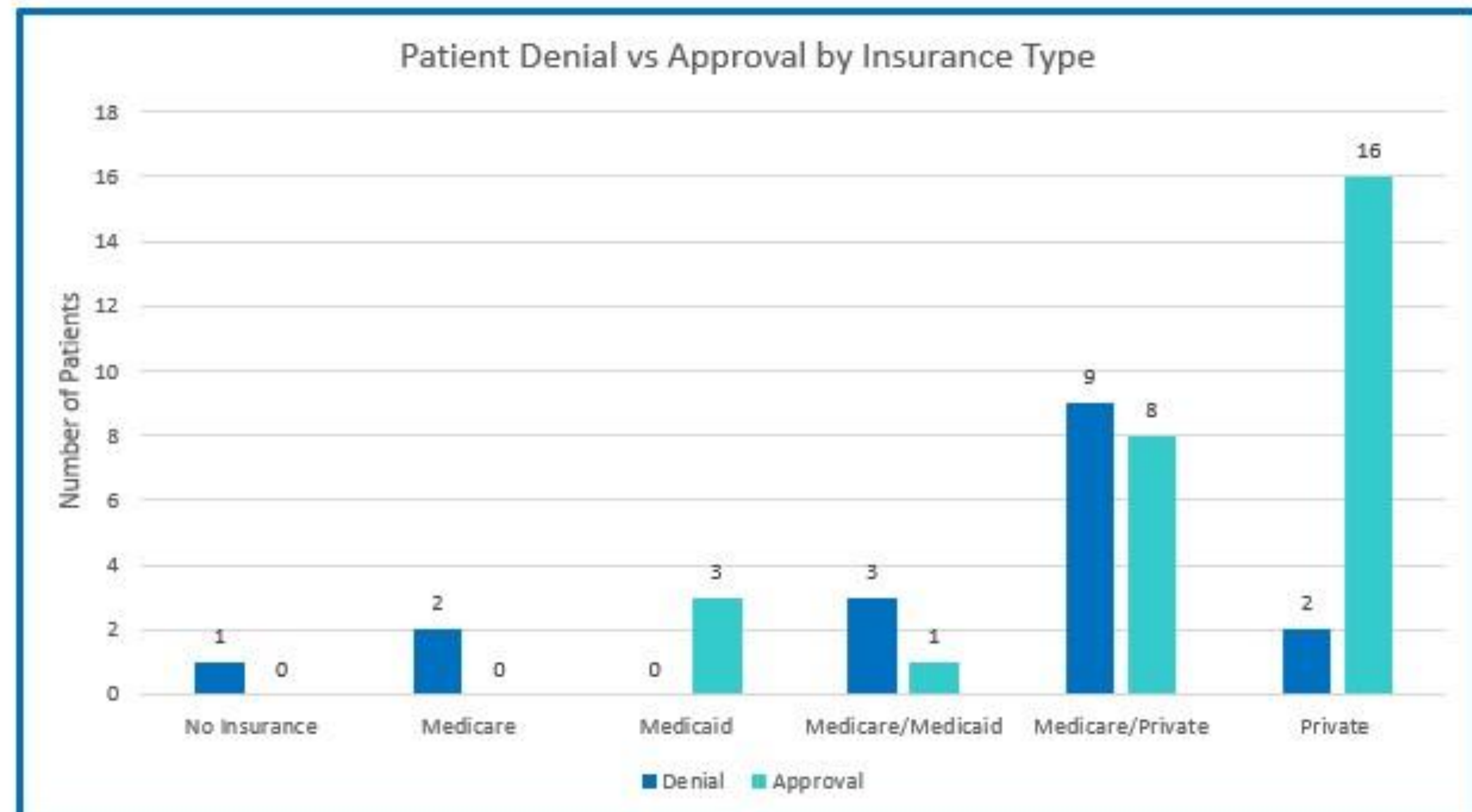


■ No Insurance ■ Medicare ■ Medicaid ■ Medicare/Medicaid ■ Medicare/Private ■ Private

Results

- Peristeen approval was significantly lower in pts insured with Medicare alone and with combined Medicare coverage compared to Private/Medicaid coverage.
- Approval percentages included 57% (Private 16/45), 0% (Medicare 0/45), 0% (No insurance 0/45), 11% (Medicaid 3/45), 29% (Medicare/Private 8/45), 3% (Medicare/Medicaid 1/45).
- Denial percentages included 12% (Private), 12% (Medicare 2/45), 6% (No insurance 1/45), 0% (Medicaid 0/45), 53% (Medicare/Private 9/45), 17% (Medicare/Medicaid 3/45).

Patient Denial vs Approval by Insurance Type



CONCLUSION

- Few insurances provide coverage for Peristeen, despite the advantages it provides to a segment of society with a significant health burden from severe constipation and fecal incontinence.
- This study further bolsters the results needed for improvement in insurance coverage for a vulnerable population with healthcare disparities.
- Pts insured with Medicare and/or combined Medicare/Private insurance coverage have lower approval rates compared to pts with Medicaid and/or Private insurance alone.
- Future studies are needed to fully address the coverage and reimbursement for Peristeen, as lack of access to a successful bowel management program can result in poor clinical outcomes for pts with NBD.