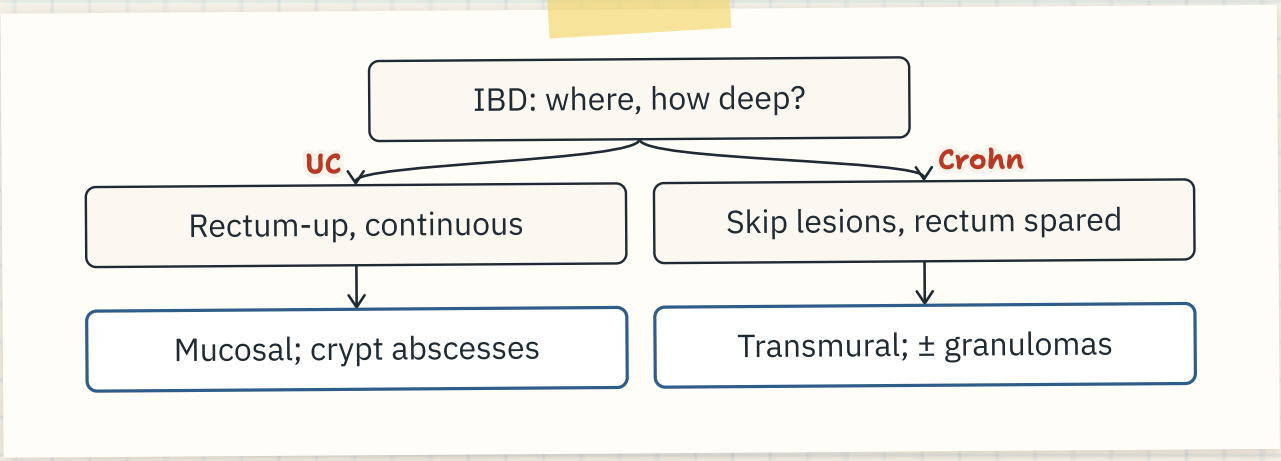
Crohn disease vs ulcerative colitis

Distribution, depth, histology, complications



Feature	UC	Crohn
Distribution	Rectum-up, continuous	Any site; skip areas
Rectum	Almost always	Often spared
Depth	Mucosa, submucosa	Transmural
Histology	Crypt abscesses	Noncaseating granulomas
Complications	Megacolon, cancer, PSC	Strictures, fistulas; cancer if colonic
Surgery	Proctocolectomy cures	Often returns

Ulcerative colitis vs Crohn disease

Depth predicts complications

Mucosal disease: bloody diarrhoea

Transmural disease: strictures and fistulas

Exam traps

- Granulomas are absent in most Crohn patients
- Caseating granulomas suggest tuberculosis, not Crohn disease
- Smoking worsens Crohn disease but is linked to less UC
- p-ANCA and ASCA do not reliably separate the two

Crohn disease vs ulcerative colitis: depth and distribution

Video, written lesson, practice question and sources: medservatory.com/usmle-step-1/gi-physiology-pathology/crohn-disease-vs-ulcerative-colitis

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