Crohn’s disease – what is it?

- Crohn’s disease is one of two conditions collectively known as inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). The other is ulcerative colitis.
- It is a chronic (persistent) disease that causes inflammation of the digestive (gastrointestinal) tract.
- Crohn’s disease can affect any part of the gastrointestinal tract, both upper and lower.
- It affects all layers of the bowel wall, from the lining to deeper layers.
- Initially, patchy (‘skip’) lesions form in inflamed areas.
- Ulcers may develop, giving the bowel a cobblestoned appearance.