**Ulcerative colitis – severity**

- Ulcerative colitis affects the large intestine – colon and rectum (back passage) only; never the small intestine.

- The extent of involvement of the large intestine can vary.

- The pattern of disease activity can also vary.

- Some people may have a severe initial presentation followed by a single mild relapse, or mild recurring relapses over time. Others may have severe persistent disease.

- Strict adherence to medications reduces the risk of relapse.