

# The Importance of Access to Comprehensive IgG4-RD Care

Q&A WITH SHOUNAK MAJUMDER, MD



## Q. How important is imaging for IgG4-RD patients?

IgG4-RD impacts several organ systems and imaging plays an important role in diagnosis, monitoring disease progression and developing a robust management plan. Sometimes imaging needs to be repeated at a short interval to ensure treatment response and to avoid overlooking subtle findings. Without access to these tests, it would be difficult to effectively care for patients.

## Q. How has telehealth impacted your ability to provide comprehensive care?

Telehealth really took off during the pandemic and quickly became a preferred option for many patients. It can be a valuable tool for patients with IgG4-RD who live far from specialists. Telehealth has been beneficial for our patients, particularly those who have an established diagnosis and are responding well to treatments. For those patients, whenever possible, we conduct telehealth appointments with them to check in on symptoms, medication management and to hold certain discussions on treatment plans.

## Q. How do you work collaboratively with other members of the care team?

Working with clinicians across specialties is the norm when caring for patients with IgG4-RD. I frequently engage with nephrologists, rheumatologists, pathologists and other subspecialties. We collaboratively review patients' test results, so we have a clear understanding of their individual needs. We also work with nursing staff to assist in patient education, so patients better understand their care plan.



**Q. What factors do you consider when choosing the right treatment?**

I base my treatment decisions on a complete picture of the patient's condition using their reported symptoms, results from labs and imaging. I assess how the disease is affecting their body and how the clinical presentation aligns with a specific treatment plan or requirement for further testing. I also heavily consider my patient's input when discussing treatment goals.

**Q. Why is care coordination important for patients with IgG4-RD?**

Care coordination allows for clear communication and appropriate monitoring of how a patient is doing over time. It also allows the larger care team to respond quickly if the patient's condition changes. Even when things are stable, regular follow-up allows me to catch early signs of relapse or organ dysfunction and adjust care before symptoms worsen and disease progresses. It also helps ensure that patients know where to go if urgent care is needed, especially since many clinicians are unfamiliar with IgG4-RD. Strengthening coordination across care teams can support more timely, effective care.



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**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Shounak Majumder, MD, is a board-certified gastroenterologist and a program director at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.



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