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“Live with it”: The invisible paradox of Inflammatory Bowel Disease



This blended performance of found poetry with participant-generated imagery was developed from the findings of a project exploring men’s blog narratives of life with Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) (Prodgers & Gough, 2019). The poems capture the three main themes of the analysis, illuminating the invisible paradox in which IBD is both uncomfortably *invisible* – leading to social isolation and feelings of uncertainty – and uncomfortably *visible* – creating social anxiety and disrupting the performance of one’s public self. As someone with IBD myself, my performance of the men’s words connects with my own emotional and embodied response to the project, leaving an impression of what it means to be both inside and outside my research.

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