CORRESPONDENCE

Imaging Techniques in Sigmoid Diverticulitis

by Dr. med. Werner Piroth, Prof. Dr. med. Patrick Haage,
Dr. med. Dipl.-Phys. Christian Hohl, Prof. Dr. med. Rolf W. Günther,
in volume 49/2007

Differentiating Between Tumor and Inflammation

The above article raises the question of interdisciplinary collaboration in the diagnosis and treatment of patients if the clinical question is assessed differently and the diagnostic options provided by another discipline are not known.

Virtual colonoscopy, a relatively new investigative imaging method, can answer many diagnostic and therapeutic questions relating to acute diverticulitis without putting the patient at additional risk. Without oral or enteral contrast medium and with lower radiation, the large intestine can be exposed and at the same time intraluminally examined.

The required orthograde lavage of the colon is simultaneously the initial therapeutic measure. As a

highly standardized investigative method, with pressure and volume controlled insufflation of CO₂, virtual colonoscopy enables exact localization of the affected sections of the colon and the differentiation between tumor and inflammation. Additionally, the procedure does not impair possibly required minimally invasive surgery through inflated intestinal loops. Information from standard computed tomography are also obtained.

Even though this method of investigation is not yet widely used, it should be listed as an option for the future.

DOI: 10.3238/arztebl.2008.0264

Prof. Dr. med. Bernd Lünstedt
Chirurgisches Institut Berlin
Ludolfingerweg 37
13465 Berlin, Germany
info@chirurgische-beratung.de

Conflict of interest statement

The author declares that no conflict of interest exists according to the guidelines of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors.

The authors of the review article have chosen not to reply.