2015-04-29

Does Every Patient Need Colonoscopy Follow-up for Diverticulitis?

Rachel Ackerman  
*University of Massachusetts Medical School*

Justin Yamin  
*University of Massachusetts Medical School*

Anne Foley  
*University of Massachusetts Medical School*

See next page for additional authors

Follow this and additional works at: [https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/ssp](https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/ssp)

Part of the *Diagnosis Commons*, *Digestive System Diseases Commons*, *Gastroenterology Commons*, and the *Neoplasms Commons*

Repository Citation  
Ackerman, Rachel; Yamin, Justin; Foley, Anne; Maranda, Louise; and Hyatt, Benjamin, "Does Every Patient Need Colonoscopy Follow-up for Diverticulitis?" (2015). University of Massachusetts Medical School. Senior Scholars Program. Paper 190.

[https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/ssp/190](https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/ssp/190)

This material is brought to you by eScholarship@UMMS. It has been accepted for inclusion in Senior Scholars Program by an authorized administrator of eScholarship@UMMS. For more information, please contact Lisa.Palmer@umassmed.edu.
Does Every Patient Need Colonoscopy Follow-up for Diverticulitis?

Authors
Rachel Ackerman, Justin Yamin, Anne Foley, Louise Maranda, and Benjamin Hyatt

Keywords
diverticulitis, colon cancer, colonoscopy, guidelines

Comments
Poster presented on Senior Scholars Presentation Day at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA, on April 29, 2015. Medical student Rachel Ackerman participated in this study as part of the Senior Scholars research program at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

This poster was awarded a 2015 Senior Scholars Poster Presentation Award.

Rights and Permissions
Copyright is held by the author(s), with all rights reserved.

This poster is available at eScholarship@UMMS: https://escholarship.umassmed.edu/ssp/190
Background

- The American College of Gastroenterology recommends colonoscopy as follow-up after an episode of diverticulitis.
- Diverticulitis has been associated with the diagnosis of colon cancer.
- There is limited data on the yield of colonoscopy in this setting.
- Studies suggest that colonoscopy may only be warranted after episodes of complicated diverticulitis, which are associated with a higher likelihood of the presence of occult colon cancer.

Methods

- The electronic medical record was searched for patients with colonoscopy performed for diverticulitis in the past five years.
- 521 charts were screened, 136 with CT-proven diverticulitis and sufficient documentation were included.
- History, imaging, colonoscopy findings, and pathology were reviewed.
- A descriptive analysis was performed and patient subgroups were compared using Fisher’s exact test.

Results

- Two adenocarcinomas of the sigmoid colon were diagnosed after follow-up colonoscopy in 136 diverticulitis patients (1.5%).
- Both were diagnosed after uncomplicated diverticulitis, and neither had previous colonoscopies.
- Both localized to the same area as the diverticulitis.
- There was no significant difference between rates of carcinoma diagnosed among subgroups examined.

Conclusions

- We believe colonoscopy should still be pursued after any episode of diverticulitis to rule out occult colon cancer.
- More evidence is needed before recommending changes to the current guidelines.
- We are looking back further in the electronic medical record to increase our sample size.

Acknowledgments

Rachel Ackerman, BA1, Justin Yamin, MD2, Anne Foley, EdM2, Louise Maranda, PhD3, Benjamin Hyatt, MD2

1University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA
2Department of Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology, University of Massachusetts Medical Center, Worcester, MA
3Department of Quantitative Health Sciences, UMass, Worcester, MA