Endoscopic tri-modal imaging for surveillance in ulcerative colitis: randomised comparison of high-resolution endoscopy and autofluorescence imaging for neoplasia detection; and evaluation of narrow-band imaging for classification of lesions

F J C van den Broek,1 P Fockens,1 S van Eeden,2 J B Reitsma,3 J C H Hardwick,1 P C F Stokkers,1 E Dekker1

ABSTRACT
Background: Endoscopic tri-modal imaging (ETMI) incorporates white light endoscopy (WLE), autofluorescence imaging (AFI) and narrow-band imaging (NBI). Aims: To assess the value of ETMI for the detection and classification of neoplasia in patients with longstanding ulcerative colitis. Design: Randomised comparative trial of tandem colonoscopies. Setting: Academic Medical Centre Amsterdam, Netherlands. Patients and methods: Fifty patients with ulcerative colitis underwent surveillance colonoscopy with ETMI. Each colonic segment was inspected twice, once with AFI and once with WLE, in random order. All detected lesions were inspected by NBI for Kudo pit pattern analysis and additional random biopsies were taken. Main outcome measures: Neoplasia miss-rates of AFI and WLE, and accuracy of the Kudo classification by NBI. Results: Among patients assigned to inspection with AFI first (n = 25), 10 neoplastic lesions were primarily detected. Subsequent WLE detected no additional neoplasia. Among patients examined with WLE first (n = 25), three neoplastic lesions were detected; subsequent inspection with AFI added three neoplastic lesions. Neoplasia miss-rates for AFI and WLE were 0% and 50% (p = 0.036). The Kudo classification by NBI had a sensitivity and specificity of 75% and 81%; however, all neoplasia was coloured purple on AFI (sensitivity 100%). No additional patients with neoplasia were detected by random biopsies. Conclusion: Autofluorescence imaging improves the detection of neoplasia in patients with ulcerative colitis and decreases the yield of random biopsies. Pit pattern analysis by NBI has a moderate accuracy for the prediction of histology, whereas AFI colour appears valuable in excluding the presence of neoplasia. Trial registration number: ISRCTN05272746

Patients with longstanding ulcerative colitis are at increased risk of developing colorectal cancer. Since colonoscopic surveillance in ulcerative colitis patients appears to lead to early detection and improved prognosis of neoplasia, guidelines recommend surveillance for these patients. However, neoplasia mainly develops in flat mucosa, so it can easily be overlooked during colonoscopy. Therefore, random biopsies are recommended in addi
disease. Exclusion criteria were insufficient bowel preparation, endoscopically active inflammation, age < 18 years, non-cor-rectable coagulopathy, and inability to give informed consent.

Endoscopy equipment
All colonoscopies were performed with a prototype ETMI system (Olympus Inc., Tokyo, Japan). The light source (XCLV-260HP) contains two rotating red–green–blue RGB filters; one conventional for WLE and one additional for NBI, in which the band-pass ranges are narrowed to wavelengths of 530–550 nm (green) and 390–445 nm (blue). For NBI, the relative intensity of blue light is increased. Since blue light penetrates the mucosa only superficially and is the main colour absorbed by haemoglobin, this setting enhances surface and capillary details (fig 1A–D).

The zoom video-colonoscope (XCF-H240FZL; magnification x100) contains two charge-coupled devices, one for WLE/NBI and one for AFI. In the AFI mode, blue light (390–470 nm) is used for excitation and green light (540–560 nm) for reflection. A barrier filter is used to detect autofluorescence and reflected light with wavelengths of 500–630 nm only. The sequentially detected images of autofluorescence and green reflection are integrated by the processor into a real-time pseudo-colour image. During AFI normal mucosa appears green, while neoplasia appears purple (fig 1A,D).

A high-resolution monitor was used for all procedures, in which the endoscopist could easily switch between the three imaging modes by pressing a button on the shaft of the endoscope.

Colonoscopic procedure and randomisation
Patients were prepared with 4 litres of hypertonic polyethylene glycol solution (Kleanprep; Norgine, Marburg, Germany) and received conscious sedation. The endoscope was advanced in the WLE mode and caecal intubation was confirmed by identification of the appendiceal orifice and ileocaecal valve. No biopsies were taken during insertion of the endoscope. All procedures were performed by three experienced colonoscopists (>2500 colonoscopies).

Upon reaching the caecum, the level of bowel preparation was determined: good (100% visible mucosa), moderate (90–100%) or poor (<90%). On introduction of the endoscope efforts were made to optimally clean the bowel by rinsing and suctioning. Poor bowel preparation was an exclusion criterion, as well as endoscopically active disease in at least one colonic segment.

During withdrawal of the colonoscope, each colonic segment was inspected twice: once with AFI and once with WLE. The hepatic and splenic flexures separated the colonic segments; in case of indistinct flexures a biopsy was taken for reference during the second inspection. Patients were randomly allocated for inspection with AFI or WLE first in all segments (fig 2). One hundred opaque sealed envelopes contained notes with “AFI” or “WLE” written on them (1:1) for randomisation. At the moment of caecal intubation, a research fellow opened a randomly chosen envelope for allocation. The endoscopists were instructed to have equal inspection times for AFI and WLE. In a random sample of 10 patients inspection times were measured for both AFI and WLE, strictly excluding time for rinsing, taking pictures and taking biopsies. Suspicious lesions detected during the first inspection were sampled immediately after detection. During the second inspection, only additionally detected suspicious lesions were sampled. Finally, four quadrant random biopsies were taken every 10 cm of colon. For each lesion, the detection technique (WLE or AFI), size (estimated by

Ulcerative colitis

Figure 1  (A) Images during high-resolution white-light endoscopy (WLE) (a); autofluorescence imaging (AFI) (b); and narrow-band imaging (NBI) (c), of mucosa with (d) no significant changes on histology. On AFI normal mucosa appears green; NBI shows a normal pit pattern (Kudo type I). (B) Images during WLE (a), AFI (b), and NBI (c), of a lesion revealing hyperplastic-like mucosal changes on histopathology (d). On AFI, inflammation becomes purple (false positive), drawing the attention of the endoscopist. On NBI, an irregular pit pattern is seen, partly with elongated pits (Kudo type III). (D) Images during WLE (a), AFI (b), and NBI (c), of a lesion revealing low-grade intraepithelial neoplasia on histopathology (d). The neoplastic lesion appears deep purple on AFI and reveals Kudo pit pattern type IV on NBI.
Biopsies were evaluated by two blinded pathologists, one of them considered a gastrointestinal expert. Biopsies were classified according to the Vienna criteria of gastrointestinal epithelial neoplasia. In the case of discrepancy between the pathologists, discussion led to a consensus diagnosis. Low-grade (LGIN) and high-grade intraepithelial neoplasia (HGIN), as well as invasive neoplasia were defined as neoplasia; lesions diagnosed as indefinite for neoplasia were not considered neoplastic.

A significant number of biopsies showed hypermucinous, serrated, epithelial changes reminiscent of hyperplastic polyps, which could not be recognised as overt intraepithelial neoplasia and of which the significance is unknown. These lesions appear similar to the lesions described by Kilgore et al. in Crohn’s disease as hyperplastic-like mucosal changes (HPC). The presence of these lesions was recorded separately and the term “HPC” was adopted from the study by Kilgore et al.

**Histopathological diagnosis**

The primary outcomes were the proportions of neoplastic lesions missed by AFI or WLE, and the accuracy of the Kudo classification assessed by NBI. Secondary outcomes were proportions of patients with missed neoplasia, number of false positive lesions and the accuracy of AFI colour.

**Sample size**

When previously applying identical inclusion criteria, the neoplasia prevalence was 29% and the neoplasia miss-rate for WLE was 54% (per lesion analysis). We assumed the neoplasia miss-rate for AFI to be 10% and expected patients with
neoplasia to have an average of 2.5 lesions. This resulted in a sample size of 50 patients (α-error 0.05 and β-error 0.2).

RESULTS

Patient characteristics
From April 2005 to November 2006 a total of 58 patients gave informed consent. Eight patients were excluded because of poor bowel preparation (n = 3) or endoscopically active disease (n = 5). Therefore, 50 patients were randomised for tandem colonoscopy; in 25 patients the first inspection was done with AFI, in the other 25 patients WLE was used first (fig 2). Baseline characteristics are summarised according to randomisation in table 1. The three endoscopists performed 18, 18 and 14 procedures each and no complications occurred in any of the patients.

Duration of colonoscopy and number of suspicious lesions
The mean inspection time for AFI was 8.1 (SD 2.7) min and for WLE 7.9 (SD 3.9) min (p = 0.757). During examination with AFI first, 37 suspicious lesions were detected (16 patients); second inspection with WLE added seven lesions (seven patients). Inspection with WLE first yielded 54 suspicious lesions (18 patients) and subsequent AFI added 20 lesions (11 patients).

Neoplasia in targeted biopsies

Autofluorescence imaging first
Among the 25 patients assigned to inspection with AFI first, 10 neoplastic lesions were detected with AFI (six patients). Subsequent examination with WLE detected no additional neoplasia (fig 2). No lesions indefinite for neoplasia were found in this group.

The first patient had three flat elevated lesions of 4–10 cm throughout the colon, all harbouring LGIN; subsequent colectomy demonstrated LGIN and focal HGIN at the same colonic sites as during colonoscopy. The second patient also had three flat elevated lesions, all 4 mm in size revealing LGIN. Given the small size, these lesions were considered as adenoma-like masses (ALMs) and removed by endoscopic mucosal resection; repeat colonoscopy within 1 year again revealed LGIN. Three other patients harboured one flat lesion each (of 3, 5 and 17 mm) with LGIN, which were considered as ALMs and removed by endoscopic mucosal resection.

Total colectomy in that patient only confirmed LGIN in the caecum. All neoplastic lesions detected by WLE were detected by AFI during the second inspection. In one patient, two sessile lesions of 3 mm were missed in the sigmoid colon revealing LGIN; in the other patient a sessile lesion of 5 mm was missed revealing LGIN. Repeat colonoscopy within 1 year again revealed LGIN at other areas in both patients with missed neoplasia.

Of the 10 patients with neoplasia, three were referred to our hospital to confirm the presence of neoplasia, three had a history of ALM resection at our own institution and one had previous neoplasia in random biopsies. Only one patient with neoplasia had a history of primary sclerosing cholangitis (PSC). There were no differences in neoplasia detection between endoscopists or between early or late ETMI procedures.

Neoplasia in random biopsies
In total, 1992 random biopsies were taken among 50 patients. In two biopsies (0.1%) histopathology revealed LGIN, both taken in a patient in whom AFI already demonstrated three neoplastic lesions, confirmed by colectomy. The first positive random biopsy was taken in an AFI purple region of which targeted biopsies revealed inflammation on histology; the second was taken just proximal to a neoplasia detected by AFI. Furthermore, eight random biopsies showed mucosal changes indefinite for neoplasia (four patients), 252 inflammation, 100 HPC and 1632 showed no significant changes.

Two of the four patients with indefinite neoplasia in random biopsies underwent colectomy for neoplasia in targeted biopsies as well; in the remaining two patients with indefinite neoplasia, three subsequent follow-up colonoscopies did not reveal any neoplasia.

Neoplasia miss-rates
The percentage of missed neoplastic lesions was 0% (0/10) for AFI and 50% (5/6) for WLE (p = 0.036). The percentage of patients with neoplasia missed by AFI was 0% (0/6) vs 50% (2/4) for WLE (p = 0.153).

Table 1 Baseline patient characteristics among patients randomly assigned to autofluorescence imaging (AFI) and white-light endoscopy (WLE) as the first examination technique

| Characteristic                          | Randomisation | p Value |
|----------------------------------------|---------------|---------|
|                                        | AFI first (n = 25) | WLE first (n = 25) |       |
| Male, n (%)                            | 17 (68%)      | 14 (56%) | 0.382 |
| Mean age, years (SD)                   | 50 (11)       | 51 (13)  | 0.889 |
| Duration of median ulcerative colitis, years (IQR) | 16 (12–21) | 14 (12–20) | 0.651 |
| History of neoplasia, n (%)            | 3 (12%)       | 4 (16%)  | 1.0   |
| Primary sclerosing cholangitis, n (%)  | 3 (12%)       | 4 (16%)  | 1.0   |
| Disease-modifying drug use, n (%)      | 23 (92%)      | 18 (72%) | 0.138 |
| Good colon preparation, n (%)          | 14 (56%)      | 20 (80%) | 0.069 |
When including neoplasia detected by random biopsies (n = 2), corresponding neoplasia miss-rates for AFI and WLE were 17% (2/12) and 50% (3/6) respectively (p = 0.268).

**False positive findings**
During inspection with AFI, a total of 44 false positive lesions were found compared to 38 during WLE (p = 0.822). Of all false positive lesions by AFI, histology showed inflammation in 22 lesions (50%) and HPC in two (4.5%). Histology of false positive lesions by WLE showed inflammation in six lesions (16%) and HPC in 13 (34%). All other false positive lesions showed no significant changes on histology.

**Findings on narrow-band imaging and autofluorescence imaging compared to histology**
Fifty-seven suspicious lesions were found with AFI and 41 with WLE, which were all inspected as NBI before taking biopsies. Of the 16 histologically proven neoplastic lesions, four showed non-neoplastic pit patterns (type I–II) on NBI, of the 82 remaining non-neoplastic lesions, 16 demonstrated neoplastic pit patterns (type III–V) due to chronic inflammation. The specificity and overall accuracy of the Kudo classification by NBI were 75% (95% CI, 51 to 90), 81% (71 to 83) and 80% (71 to 86) respectively (table 2).

All suspicious lesions were also scored for colour on AFI. Considering AFI green as non-neoplastic and AFI purple/ambiguous as neoplastic the sensitivity, specificity and overall accuracy of AFI colour were 100% (21 to 100), 42% (31 to 52) and 51% (41 to 61), respectively.

When combining AFI and NBI findings, thereby considering AFI green as well as all AFI-ambiguous lesions with Kudo type I–II on NBI as negative for neoplasia, the sensitivity, specificity and overall accuracy were 100% (21 to 100), 72% (61 to 81) and 77% (67 to 84). This combined use of AFI plus NBI could hypothetically have prevented taking targeted biopsies of 59 lesions (60%) without leaving neoplasia in situ.

**DISCUSSION**
This is the first randomised study comparing AFI to WLE for detection and NBI for classification of neoplasia in patients with longstanding ulcerative colitis. We have demonstrated that ETMI is feasible for colonic use, provided that the colon is properly prepared and not actively inflamed. Insufficient bowel preparation and active inflammation interrupt tissue autofluorescence, resulting in discoloration on AFI and resembling neoplasia. When combining AFI and NBI findings, thereby considering AFI green as well as all AFI-ambiguous lesions with Kudo type I–II on NBI as negative for neoplasia, the sensitivity, specificity and overall accuracy were 100% (21 to 100), 72% (61 to 81) and 77% (67 to 84). This combined use of AFI plus NBI could hypothetically have prevented taking targeted biopsies of 59 lesions (60%) without leaving neoplasia in situ.

**Table 2 Correspondence between the Kudo pit pattern classification (by narrow-band imaging (NBI)) and histopathology (the gold standard) of all detected lesions**

| NBI classification | Histopathology |  |
|--------------------|----------------|---|
|                    | Neoplastic      | Non-neoplastic | Total |
| Suspicious         | 12              | 16            | 28 |
|                     | PPV 43%         |               |     |
| Non-suspicious     | 4               | 66            | 70 |
|                     | NPV 94%         |               |     |
| Total              | 16, sens. 75%   | 82, spec. 81% | 98 |

Kudo pit pattern type I–II was considered as non-suspicious and Kudo type III–V as suspicious for neoplasia.

NPV, negative predictive value; PPV, positive predictive value; sens., sensitivity; spec., specificity.

Any ulcerative colitis patient, since histopathological distinction between inflammation and neoplasia can be extremely difficult or even impossible in this situation. Disrupted autofluorescence due to residual faeces may explain why patients allocated to AFI inspection first were less often judged to have good colon preparation as shown in table 1 (p = 0.069). However, insufficient bowel preparation does not uniquely preclude scrutinising the colon during AFI, but this is true for WLE as well. When becoming accustomed to AFI during the study period, the percentage colon preparation judged as good increased from 22% to 75% (early vs late procedures; p = 0.017) among patients allocated to AFI first. The present study demonstrated a neoplasia miss-rate of 50% for WLE compared to a miss-rate of 0% for AFI (p = 0.036). Although all missed neoplastic lesions were considered ALMs and have been treated by endoscopic mucosal resection, repeat colonoscopy within 1 year confirmed the presence of neoplasia in these patients. Debate still exists about whether ALMs should prompt colectomy or can safely be removed by endoscopic resection. An important consideration is whether ALMs are located within or proximal to the extent of inflamed colon. All included patients had pancolitis and therefore hold a higher risk for cancer development, even if neoplasia was considered as an ALM. Since only intraepithelial neoplasias have been found in our study, the value of AFI for the detection of early invasive cancers could not be evaluated.

We found a high prevalence of neoplasia in our study population, probably caused by the tertiary referral function of our institution, selection of patients with pancolitis, and inclusion of patients with a history of neoplasia without colectomy. This high prevalence at our institution has been demonstrated before in a study comparing standard WLE and NBI, revealing a neoplasia miss-rate of 42% for WLE. The even higher miss-rate for high resolution WLE in the present study suggests that AFI may correctly visualise a significant part of neoplasia, which remains invisible for WLE. Despite appropriate powering of the present study, however, the relatively small sample size prompts confirmation of these results in larger trials.

In a retrospective study, standard colonoscopy missed 39% of all neoplasia which was only detected by additional random biopsies. The authors included neoplasia detected by random biopsies in the denominator for measuring sensitivity and no additional imaging techniques were used, as opposed to our study. The neoplasia miss-rate for high resolution WLE in our study was 50%, only missing lesions that were subsequently visualised by AFI. Random biopsies did not add neoplasia in any of these cases. Among patients examined with AFI first and WLE second, two random biopsies revealed neoplasia, which may be analysed as neoplasia missed by both AFI and WLE. When including positive random biopsies, the neoplasia miss-rate of AFI was 17% (2/12), which is still lower than current practice. Two remarks must be made concerning those random biopsies revealing “invisible” neoplasia. First, the positive biopsies were both derived from one patient in whom AFI already demonstrated three “visible” neoplastic lesions. Second, one out of two biopsies was taken in an AFI purple region and one was taken adjacent to a neoplasia visualised by AFI. The presence of neoplasia in biopsies taken adjacent to visible neoplasia merely reflects the nature of dysplasia associated lesions or masses instead of missed neoplasia. Therefore, we conclude that random biopsies did not add relevant neoplasia. The need for random biopsies in addition to the use of advanced imaging techniques has been questioned several times. Random biopsies have a low yield of neoplasia.
Ulcerative colitis

when used next to CE.16 Also, in the present study the diagnostic yield of random biopsies was low, only finding neoplasia in 0.1% of biopsies. Random biopsies increase examination time and pathology costs, may distract the endoscopist from scrutinising the colon and have a risk of bleeding. The fact that all neoplasia in this study was coloured purple on AFI and that random biopsies did not detect neoplasia in additional patients, underlines the question whether these biopsies should be taken if AFI reveals a colon with the normal “green” appearance.

The high yield of neoplasia with AFI must be weighed against the results of CE in previous studies.14-17 In our experience, the use of AFI is easier and more convenient for both patients and endoscopists. Only pressing a button instead of applying dyes to the mucosa will provide enhanced imaging, thereby saving time. We experienced AFI to have a lower resolution compared to high-resolution WLE, although it served well as a red flag technique. The need for high resolution might be questioned in the circumstance where AFI correctly visualised all neoplasia by colouring purple. The results of the present study support the use of AFI, but the small sample size and expert setting prompt larger trials comparing AFI and CE in general practice to provide practical recommendations.

Although AFI has demonstrated a high rate of false positive findings in Barrett’s oesophagus, the present study showed that there was no difference in false positive rate among AFI or WLE in ulcerative colitis surveillance.24-26 As known from previous research, active inflammation colours purple during AFI.27 The present study demonstrated purple coloration of chronic inflammation as well, which was the main cause of false positive finding for AFI, whereas hyperplastic-like mucosal change (HPC) was the most notable false positive finding for WLE. These HPCs might be similar to the lesions described before in Crohn’s disease, in which an association was shown between the prevalence of HPC and concomitant neoplasia.28 We could not demonstrate a correlation between HPC and neoplasia in our study (results not shown), although prospective evaluation and molecular analysis of these lesions might be an interesting subject for future studies.

Confocal endomicroscopy has recently proven to be a good candidate to reduce false positive biopsies and to increase the effectiveness of surveillance, although this technique requires expensive equipment and special training.13,14 In the present study the Kudo classification with NBI had an unsatisfactory specificity and sensitivity of 81% and 75%, figures which are comparable to a recent report on pit pattern analysis with CE.29 On the contrary, all neoplasias were coloured purple on AFI. Therefore, the sensitivity of NBI could be improved by adding the information about AFI colour in the rule for defining a positive test result. All AFI green lesions and all AFI ambiguous lesions with Kudo type I-II on NBI revealed non-neoplastic histology, suggesting that those lesions can safely be left in situ. Prospective studies should validate this finding, which might lead to a sensitivity of 100% and specificity of 77%.

Instead of Kudo pit pattern analysis with NBI, the vascular intensity pattern has also been used for differentiation of lesions in the non-inflamed colon.30-32 In a recent study by East et al33 the accuracy of the Kudo classification was comparable to the vascular intensity pattern in the non-inflamed colon. However, the value of vascular pattern analysis in patients with ulcerative colitis is still unknown.

In summary, ETMI appears a feasible option for colonoscopic surveillance of patients with ulcerative colitis, although additional studies are imperative. In the present trial AFI reduced the neoplasia miss-rate to 0% and made random biopsies superfluous. For the endoscopic classification of lesions, NBI had a sensitivity of only 75% but the additional information about colour obtained by AFI increased the sensitivity to 100%. Larger studies in a non-expert setting are needed to confirm these results, as well as comparative trials with chromoendoscopy and confocal endomicroscopy in order to demonstrate which technique performs better and is more convenient for the detection and classification of neoplasia.

Acknowledgements: The ETMI prototype endoscopy equipment was provided by Olympus, Tokyo, Japan.

Funding: FJC van den Broek is supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Olympus, Hamburg, Germany.

Competing interests: None.

Ethics approval: The study was approved by the medical ethical committee of our institution on 16 February 2005.

REFERENCES

1. Itzkowitz SH, Harpaz N. Diagnosis and management of dysplasia in patients with inflammatory bowel diseases. Gastroenterology 2004;126:1834-48.
2. Eaden JA, Abrams KR, Mayberry JF. The risk of colorectal cancer in ulcerative colitis: a meta-analysis. Gut 2001;48:526–35.
3. Collins P, Mpofu C, Watson A, et al. Strategies for detecting colon cancer and/or dysplasia in patients with inflammatory bowel disease. Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2006;(2):CD00279.
4. Itzkowitz SH, Present DH. Consensus conference: Colorectal cancer screening and surveillance in inflammatory bowel disease. Inflamm Bowel Dis 2005;11:314–21.
5. Eaden JA, Mayberry JF. Guidelines for screening and surveillance of asymptomatic colorectal cancer in patients with inflammatory bowel disease. Gut 2002;51(Suppl 5):V10–V12.
6. Labianca R, Beretta GD, Mosconi S, et al. Colorectal cancer: screening. Ann Oncol 2005;16(Suppl 2):ii127–i132.
7. Ransohoff DF, Riddell RH, Levin B. Ulcerative colitis and colonic cancer. Problems in surveillance of patients with ulcerative colitis, although additional studies are imperative. Gut 2005;54:342–8.
8. Fritsch J, Holtmann M, Kudo T, Jo Y, et al. Magnifying colonoscopy with narrow band imaging for the detection of intraepithelial neoplasia and colon cancer in ulcerative colitis. Gastroenterology 2003;124:980–8.
9. Kiesslich R, Fritsch J, Holtmann M, et al. Methylene blue-aided chromoendoscopy for the detection of intraperithelial neoplasia and colon cancer in ulcerative colitis. Gastroenterology 2006;130:1030–9.
10. Dekker E, Wolff P, New imaging techniques at colonoscopy: tissue spectroscopy and narrow band imaging. Gastrointest Endosc Clin N Am 2005;15:703–14.
11. Kenny E, van der Broek F, Reitorna JB, et al. Narrow-band imaging compared with conventional colonoscopy for the detection of dysplasia in patients with longstanding ulcerative colitis. Endoscopy 2007;39:216–21.
12. Ransohoff DF, Sanders BP, Wilkinson KH, et al. Thirty-year analysis of a colonoscopic surveillance program for neoplasia in ulcerative colitis. Gastroenterology 2006;130:1030–9.
13. Dekker E, Fockens P. New imaging techniques at colonoscopy: tissue spectroscopy and narrow band imaging. Gastrointest Endosc Clin N Am 2005;15:703–14.
14. Kiesslich R, Fritsch J, Holtmann M, et al. Methylene blue-aided chromoendoscopy for the detection of intraperithelial neoplasia and colon cancer in ulcerative colitis. Gastroenterology 2003;124:980–8.
15. Kiesslich R, Geist M, Lammersdorf K, et al. Chromoendoscopy-guided endomicroscopy increases the diagnostic yield of intraperithelial neoplasia in ulcerative colitis. Gastroenterology 2007;132:574–82.
16. Ransohoff DF, Sanders BP, Schofield G, et al. Pancolonic indigo carmine dye spraying for the detection of dysplasia in ulcerative colitis. Gut 2004;53:255–60.
17. Hurlstone DP, Sanders DS, Lobo AJ, et al. Indigo carmine-assisted high-magnification chromoendoscopy colonoscopy for the detection and characterisation of intraperithelial neoplasia in ulcerative colitis: a prospective evaluation. Endoscopy 2005;37:1186–92.
18. Gono K, Obi T, Yamaguchi M, et al. Appearance of enhanced tissue features in narrow-band endoscopic imaging. J Biomed Opt 2004;9:588–77.
19. Kuznetsov K, Lambert R, Rey JF. Narrow-band imaging: potential and limitations. Endoscopy 2006;38:76–81.
20. Gheorghie C. Narrow-band imaging endoscopy for diagnosis of malignant and premalignant gastrointestinal lesions. J Gastrointest Liver Dis 2006;15:77–82.
21. East JE, Suzuki N, von HA, et al. Narrow band imaging with magnification for dysplisia detection and pit pattern assessment in ulcerative colitis surveillance: a case with multiple dysplasia associated lesions or masses. Gut 2006;55:1432–5.
22. Matsutomo T, Kudo T, Jo Y, et al. Magnifying colonoscopy with narrow band imaging system for the diagnosis of dysplasia in ulcerative colitis: a pilot study. Gastrointest Endosc 2007;66:957–65.
23. Machida H, Sano Y, Hamamoto Y, et al. Narrow-band imaging in the diagnosis of colorectal mucosal lesions: a pilot study. Endoscopy 2004;36:1094–8.

1088 Gut 2008;57:1088–1089. doi:10.1136/gut.2007.144097
Editor’s quiz: GI snapshot

ANSWER

From the question on page 1048

The computed tomography (CT) scan of the abdomen, thorax and extremities demonstrated extensive retroperitoneal gas, adjacent to the sigmoid colon, with extension into the neck, mediastinum, preperitoneum, left leg and scrotum. This patient was diagnosed with a retroperitoneal and thigh abscess due to perforated diverticulitis. Segmental colic resection with an end colostomy was performed. Faecal material was drained from the retroperitoneum and thigh. Histopathological examination of the specimen demonstrated perforated diverticulitis. After 7 weeks in the intensive care unit the patient was discharged. Unfortunately, the patient died unexpectedly after 9 days. An autopsy was not performed.

Soft tissue abscesses of the groin, thigh, hip and buttock may be extra-abdominal manifestations of perforated diverticulitis or other intra-abdominal pathology. This rare presentation occurs more often in elderly patients. A review of 46 reported cases of thigh abscesses noted that the main underlying diseases were perforations from diverticulitis or colorectal cancer. The overall mortality is high and therefore awareness and recognition of an intra-abdominal source for “cellulitis” in the thigh or groin is important.

Gut 2008;57:1089. doi:10.1136/gut.2007.141853a

REFERENCES

1. Rothenbuehler JM, Oerlii D, Harder F. Extraperitoneal manifestation of perforated diverticulitis. Dig Dis Sci 1993;38:1985–8.
2. Rottstein OD, Pruett TL, Simmons RL. Thigh abscess, an uncommon presentation of intra-abdominal sepsis [abstract]. Am J Surg 1986;151:414–8.