Letter to the Editor: Colonic Perforation

Carta ao Editor: Perfuração do Côlon

Keywords: Colon/injuries; Colonoscopy/adverse effects; Intestinal Mucosa/injuries; Intestinal Perforation
Palavras-chave: Côlon/lesões; Colonoscopia/efeitos adversos; Mucosa Intestinal/lesões; Perfuração Intestinal

I read with interest the article titled “Target Sign: Endoscopic Sign of the Colonic Perforation” by Costa JM et al.1 It is indeed unfortunate when a well-intended therapeutic intervention results in iatrogenic complications. Indeed, the early recognition of target sign as a marker of colonic perforation will enable the immediate closure of the defect by endoscopic clips.

The European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy position statement in 2014 recommends clipping either through the scope or over the scope within four hours of colonic perforation, depending on the size of the defect.2

REFERENCES

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Letter to the Editor regarding the article “Prevalence of Hepatitis A Virus Antibody in Portuguese Travelers: A New Paradigm”

Carta ao Editor relativa ao artigo “Seroprevalência do Anticorpo do Vírus na Hepatite A em Viajantes Portugueses: Um Novo Paradigma”

Keywords: Hepatitis A; Hepatitis A Antibodies; Hepatitis A Virus, Human; Portugal; Seroepidemiologic Studies; Travel; Travel Medicine; Viral Vaccines
Palavras-chave: Anticorpos Anti-Hepatite A; Estudos Seroepidemiológicos; Hepatite A, Medicina do Viajante; Portugal; Viagem; Vírus da Hepatite A Humana

We have read with great interest the article published by Rocha et al.3 about the prevalence of hepatitis A among Portuguese travelers, where the authors highlight the tendency of lower rates of anti-Hepatitis A virus (HAV) antibody in Portuguese adults up to 50 years old. In fact, this is a confirmation of a tendency that was firstly observed 20 years ago when a study by Marinho et al.4 demonstrated this difference: the prevalence in healthcare workers (average age of 40.1 years) was 86.4% in opposition to a prevalence of 35.3% in medical students (average age of 20.7 years). This is quite different from the figures encountered around a decade before, in 1984, in the largest study on hepatitis A prevalence in Portugal: 84.9% in overall population, 23.6% in those under 4 years of age, increasing to 93.6% by 18 and reaching 99% after the age of 30.5

We have also conducted a study where this same trend was detected, and verified that it is not that recent. We retrospectively reviewed the anti-HAV antibodies (IgG, and IgM when it was asked) of all patients to whom it was requested at our district Hospital - either in the Emergency Department, the Ward or Consultation - which encompass a heterogeneous population, in the years of 2004 and 2013, to check for any differences in this period of time. We included 637 patients (296 in 2004 and 341 in 2013) with a median age of 41.2 ± 19.1 years (38.7 years in 2004 and 43.4 in 2013) of which 55.7% were men. The mean prevalence of hepatitis A was 77.7% in 2004 and 76.2% in 2013 (p = 0.66). On the other hand, the prevalence in the pediatric age group was 34.8% in 2004 and 39% in 2013 (p = 0.80). The only statistically significant difference we have