

Acute Colonic Pseudoobstruction (Ogilvie Syndrome) - A Severe Complication in the Evolution of the Hospitalized or Institutionalized Patients

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Abstract

Introduction: Ogilvie syndrome, or acute colonic pseudo-obstruction (ACPO), represents a pathological entity, potentially with a severe outcome, due to the acute important dilation of the large bowel, in the absence of a mechanical luminal obstruction. Usually, it occurs in patients admitted in intensive care unit, that associate severe surgical or medical pathologies. The mechanism of the ACPO has not been completely explained, but it is assumed that the motor function of the colon may be affected, as a result of autonomic regulation disturbance. Early diagnosis and treatment help reduce the risk of severe outcome, such as ischemia or perforation.

Material and method: In addition to our experience, a literature search was elaborated in order to evaluate the incidence, the etiology, the clinical presentation and the diagnosis of the ACPO.

Results and Conclusions: The present study may be of help in the process of guiding the optimal management of a critically ill patient is at high risk of developing colonic pseudo-obstruction.

Key words: Ogilvie, pseudo-obstruction, colon