

## Comments on ‘Volvulus of the gastrointestinal tract’

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Sir,

A recent review ‘Volvulus of the gastrointestinal tract’ clarified the epidemiologic, diagnostic, therapeutic, and prognostic parameters of different volvulus types including sigmoid volvulus (SV) (Brown et al, 2024). My practising area, Eastern Anatolia is an endemic area of SV, the most common type of volvulus (Atamanalp et al, 2022). My colleagues and I have 57.5-year (from June 1966 to January 2024) and 1076-case experience with SV, which is the largest single-centre SV series over the world (Web of Science, 2024). Based on this experience, I want to discuss some details of the diagnostic and therapeutic characteristics of SV.

First, the authors amplified the roles of blood tests, X-ray radiography, fluoroscopy, ultrasound, and computed tomography (CT) in the diagnosis of SV (Brown et al, 2024). However, sigmoidoscopy and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) are also non-negligible diagnostic procedures. Sigmoidoscopy is not only the first-line treatment option in uncomplicated SV, but also a diagnostic procedure by demonstrating a luminal obstructive twisting in the sigmoid colon with 75%–98% diagnostic accuracy (Atamanalp et al, 2022). Additionally, sigmoidoscopy is a unique way to demonstrate mucosal viability (Atamanalp, 2022). On the other hand, MRI has 85%–98% of diagnostic accuracy by presenting dilated sigmoid colon segments and whirl sign in the sigmoid mesentery, which procedure is preferably used in pregnant women (Atamanalp et al, 2022). In our series, the diagnostic success rates of sigmoidoscopy and MRI were 98.7% (150 of 152 patients) and 95.7% (43 of 46 cases), respectively.

Second, the authors identified the presence of ischaemia or necrosis as the main indication of immediate surgical intervention (Brown et al, 2024), which was present in 290 patients (27.0%) in our SV series. However, a failure of endoscopic decompression is the second most common absolute indication of urgent surgery (Alavi et al, 2021), which was determined in 125 of 746 cases (16.8%), in whom endoscopy was tried. On the other hand, early recurrence, which occurs during the first hospitalisation, is another uncommon but relative indication of urgent surgery, which was present in 34 of our 621 patients (5.5%), who were treated with endoscopy.

I congratulate the authors for their didactic presentation and wait for their experiments as well as ideas on my comments.

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