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Giant diverticulum- A rare complication of a common surgical condition

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Introduction

What is this condition?

Giant colonic diverticulum

A 65-year-old gentleman presented with abdominal distension and pain. CT confirmed a 20 cm sigmoid diverticulum (Fig. 1). Although he was clinically well a sigmoidectomy was performed due to the risk of perforation (Fig. 2). The patient was discharged 3 days later.

Giant diverticulum, typified by diverticula greater than 4 cm, is a rare manifestation of diverticular disease of the colon. It affects the sigmoid in 90% of cases [1]. Since it...
was first described by Hughes and Green in 1953, there have been fewer than 200 cases reported with most measuring between 7 and 15 cm. Although etiology is not clearly understood, it is believed that a one-way valve is created at the communication between the colon and the sac leading to air entrapment and a gradual distension of the sac [2]. Treatment usually entails surgery: colonic resection with a primary anastomosis.

**Conflict of Interest**

None declared.

**References**