

Return to Bowel Function after Right versus Extended Right Hemicolectomy: A Retrospective Review

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Abstract : Aim: After hemicolectomy a period of obligatory bowel dysfunction is expected, termed postoperative ileus (POI). Prolonged postoperative ileus (PPOI), typically four or more days, is associated with higher morbidity and extended inpatient stay. This leads to significant financial and resource-related burdens on healthcare systems. Several studies including a meta-analysis have compared rates of PPOI in left vs right hemicolectomy, which suggest that right-sided resections may be more likely to result in PPOI. Our study aims to further investigate whether significant differences in PPOI and obligatory POI exist between right versus extended right hemicolectomy. Methods: This is a retrospective review assessing rates of PPOI in patients who underwent right vs extended right hemicolectomy at Tauranga Hospital. Patients were divided and compared depending on approach (open versus laparoscopic) and acuity (acute versus elective). Exclusion criteria included synchronous major operations and patients preoperatively on parenteral nutrition. Primary outcome was PPOI as pre-defined in contemporary literature. Secondary outcomes were time to passage of flatus, passage of stool, toleration of oral diet and rate of complications. Results: There were 669 patients identified for analysis (507 laparoscopic vs 162 open; 194 acute vs 475 elective). Early analysis indicates rates of PPOI was significantly increased in patients undergoing extended right hemicolectomy. Factors including age, gender, ethnicity, preoperative haemoglobin, preoperative albumin and diagnosis of inflammatory bowel disease were examined by multivariate analysis to determine correlation with PPOI. Conclusion: PPOI is a common complication of hemicolectomy surgery. Higher rates of PPOI in extended right vs right hemicolectomy warrants further research into determining the cause. This study examines some other factors which may contribute to PPOI.

Keywords : hemicolectomy, colorectal, complications, postoperative ileus

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