Behçet's Disease and Colonic Diverticula

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Dear Sir,

Diverticular disease of the colon is primarily a disease of humans living in Westernized and industrialized countries [1, 2]. The cause remains uncertain, but epidemiologic studies attribute it to dietary fiber deficiency. The assumption is that decreased dietary fiber intake results in decreased intestinal contents and, hence, decreased size of the lumen, which results in luminal overpressure and an increase in sigmoid colon contractility. The result of increased force (pressure) on the wall is the formation of diverticula at the weakest point in the wall: the sites of penetration by blood vessels [1, 2]. Behçet's disease (BD) is a multisystemic chronic vasculitic disorder which may involve both arteries and veins of all sizes, as well as the central nervous and gastrointestinal systems [3]. I

read with great interest the article written by Sahan et al. [4] who pointed out the possible relation between BD and colonic diverticula. To clarify that relation we examined 15 patients with BD, whose diagnosis fulfilled the criteria of the International Study Group for Behçet's Disease [5], with colonoscopy as routine screening for gastrointestinal involvement. There was no colonic diverticula in the colonoscopic examination of these patients. In conclusion, I want to speculate whether patients with BD show a significantly lower prevalence of colonic diverticulosis, with this finding probably reflecting the motor alterations caused by the ischemic result from the involved vessels. This should be clarified by new studies.

References

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