

Long-term functional results of colonic J pouch versus straight coloanal anastomosis

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Background: There are very few studies evaluating the long-term functional outcome of coloanal anastomoses. This retrospective study aimed to compare long-term functional results of straight and colonic **J** pouch anastomoses.

Methods:

Thirty-seven patients, 25 with a straight anastomosis and 12 with a **J** pouch anastomosis, responded to a standardized telephone questionnaire. The mean time since surgery was 10 (range 4–18) years.

Results:

The mean daily stool frequency was similar in both groups of patients (1.1 in patients with a reservoir, 1.5 in patients with a straight anastomosis). In both groups, two thirds of patients had perfect continence or limited gas incontinence. Faecal incontinence was reported by two patients with a straight anastomosis and one patient with a pouch. Nocturnal stools and fragmentation were slightly more frequent in patients with a straight anastomosis. Half of the patients regularly used medication. Thirty-five of the 37 patients reported satisfaction with functional results.

Conclusion: Long-term functional results of coloanal anastomosis are satisfactory and, unlike early results, similar for both types of anastomosis. The functional benefit of a reservoir, seen in the first year after operation, is less evident with increasing time