

**MALIGNANT RECTAL PERFORATION?**

Dear Sir,

I read the article, "Traumatic rectal perforation presenting as necrotising fasciitis of the lower limb" with great interest. The authors have described the clinical presentation, diagnosis and management explicitly. However, I have some queries.

Firstly, the distance between the site of the perforation and the previous anastomotic site was not mentioned. It may possibly be a rupture of the anastomotic line due to a recurrence. Secondly, it is also not known whether the biopsy was taken from the perforation site or not. Without a biopsy, the possibility of a recurrence cannot be excluded. Various studies have reported different rates of recurrence in carcinoma of the rectum.<sup>(1-3)</sup> Galandink et al have mentioned a recurrence rate as high as 52% within a time interval of one month and seven-and-a-half years.<sup>(2)</sup> Lastly, was the loop colostomy ever closed? The authors have mentioned a two-year follow-up without providing more information about the fate of the colostomy.

Yours sincerely,

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