

How Fast Can a Giant Colonic Diverticulum Grow?

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Abstract

Background: A giant colonic diverticulum is defined as a diverticulum with a diameter over 4 cm. Previous case reports have focused on and investigated the pathophysiology, but little is known about the growth pattern.

Methods: We present a case in which we retrospectively document the growth rate of a giant colonic diverticulum (GCD).

Results: A 67-year-old patient was sent to our surgical department with a CT confirmed cystic, air-filled cavity of more than 7 cm. Segmental resection of the megadiverticulum was performed. The pathology showed a giant colonic diverticulum that measured 10x8x7 cm. We compared the CT images from his previous attack of diverticulitis with the actual findings: a single enlarged diverticulum had grown nearly sevenfold since this attack, implying a growth rate of 1,5 cm/month.

Conclusion: Our case report supports the hypothesis that a previous diverticulitis attack and early colonoscopy can accelerate the development of a colonic megadiverticulum, and they are possible risk factors.

Key words: acute diverticulitis, colonic diverticulosis, giant diverticulum, growth rate