

INTRODUCTION

⚓ **Important role of the localization techniques**

- ▶ Accurate laparoscopic localization of lesions / former polypectomy sites is often challenging
- ▶ 10%-20% of endoscopic tumor locations are inconsistent with the intraoperative tumor site
 - Risk of removal of the wrong colonic segment

AVAILABLE TECHNIQUES

⚓ **Tattooing/staining**

- ▶ India ink = black drawing ink made with carbon particles
 - Used generally in a 1:50 to 1:100 dilution
 - Sterilized suspension vs unsterilized
 - India ink contains other compounds which may cause inflammatory reactions in local tissue
- ▶ Most commonly used
- ▶ Stain lasts up to 22 years
 - Methylene blue, indigo carmine and indocyanine green: relatively short time span
- ▶ Seems simplest, safest and most effective method



Figure 4 Endoscopic appearance of the lesion following application of India ink.

AVAILABLE TECHNIQUES

⚓ **Intra-operative colonoscopy**

- ▶ May hamper laparoscopic handling due to insufflation

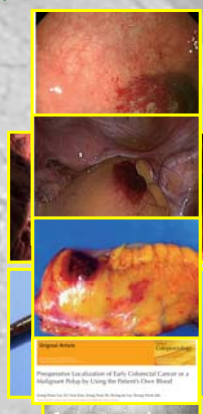
⚓ **CT colonography**

⚓ **Clips**

- ▶ Short-term solution (clip migration)
- ▶ Intraoperative fluoroscopy or US

⚓ **Clipping of a tattoo marker next to the tumor**

⚓ **Using the patient's own blood**



There are no studies comparing endoscopic tattooing with these alternative methods of localisation

STANDARDISATION OF COLONIC TATTOOING

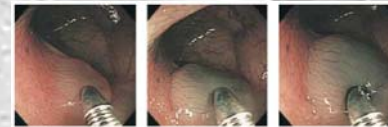
- ⚓ **Eliminate unnecessary costs**
 - ▶ Less repeated diagnostic interventions and prolonged surgical procedures
- ⚓ **Two-step (saline-test) injection method (injection of saline to form a submucosal bleb)**
- ⚓ **Fu KI et al. Endoscopy (2001): conventional vs. two-step injection technique**
 - ▶ Conventional technique: correct in 31/36 cases (86.1 %)
 - ▶ Two-step technique: correct in 54/55 cases (98 %) ($p = 0.034$)



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HOW TO TATTOO

- ⚓ **The saline-test method:**
 - ▶ Injection of 1 to 3 cc of saline into the submucosal layer
 - ▶ Insertion at an oblique angle to the bowel wall to avoid penetrating the serosa
 - ▶ Injection of 0,5 cc to 1,5 cc of India ink
 - ▶ Flushing needle with 2 cc of saline



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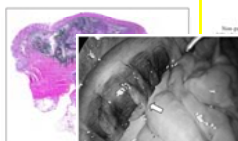
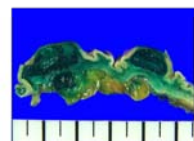
WHERE TO TATTOO



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POSSIBLE RISKS / SAFETY

- ⚓ **Clinical relevant complications < 1%** (AJG 1996 / GIE 2010)
 - ▶ Complications not per se related to the India ink itself, but also to organic and inorganic compounds as cause of inflammatory responses
 - Inflammatory pseudotumor with perivisceral fat necrosis
 - Infection (abscess)
 - Perforation
- ⚓ **No long-term complications have been reported** (GIE 2010)
 - ▶ After an average of 36 months of FU no end and no relevation histological changes in 74
- ⚓ **Spilling**
 - ▶ Risk +/- 10% (World J Surg 2006)



Complication after Pre-Operative India Ink Tattooing in a Colonic Lesion

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Figure 3. Laparoscopic visualization of advanced stage colonic tumor. Tattooed lesion is visible on the colonic mucosa.

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PREVENTION COMPLICATIONS

- ⚓ **Using a sterile dilute suspensions of pure carbon?**
- ⚓ **Using small volumes**
 - ▶ Aliquots of 0,1 to 2 cc
 - ▶ Higher volumes: higher risk of spillage & complications
- ⚓ **Avoid deep injection**
 - ▶ Needle length
 - ▶ Oblique angle
 - ▶ Saline-test method



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WHICH LESIONS (DO NOT) NEED TATTOOING

- ⚓ **Caecum and ileocaecal valve?**
- ⚓ **Rectum (< 12cm from the anal verge)?**
- ⚓ **Tattoo any worrisome lesion that might require further intervention, with no particular recommendations relative to the size of the lesion**



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