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## Complications of Diverticulosis Coli: The Pattern of an Emerging Disease Entity

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The prevalence of diverticular disease of the colon in Trinidad is higher than in the other developing countries. A 46-month review yielded 52 cases with complications of the entity. Haemorrhage was the most common complication (65%) but required surgery in only 11.7% of cases. Acute diverticulitis and pericolic abscess accounted for 23% of the total and required surgery in 58% (7/12). There were 4 cases of colovesical fistula and 2 with chronic abdominal pain. The sigmoid colon was the most often affected segment of the large bowel. In the only case where bleeding was localized pre-operatively, the site was in the hepatic flexure. Sigmoid colectomy was the most frequently performed procedure (59%) with wound infection complicating 26% of cases. Only one patient managed conservatively had recurring symptoms (2.8%). Conservative therapy appears to be the management of choice of this emerging disease entity.