

CT Enterography as a Diagnostic Tool in Evaluating Small Bowel Disorders: Review of Clinical Experience with Over 700 Cases — Paulsen, Huprich, Fletcher, et al., Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

Purpose

In a retrospective analysis of 756 patients who underwent CTE at the Mayo Clinic, the authors described their preferred methods for performing CTE, including the use of a 0.1% barium sulfate suspension (VoLumen®) as a preferred oral contrast agent. The article covers various considerations in achieving small bowel distension, and the authors discuss and illustrate CT enterographic findings in the most common diseases encountered in their series, including: Crohn disease, ulcerative colitis, small bowel tumors, celiac disease and incidental findings.

Conclusion

CTE has begun to replace the SBFT exam for the investigation of Crohn disease. (p.655)

“Compared with traditional small bowel follow-through examination, CT enterography has several advantages: (a) it displays the entire thickness of the bowel wall, (b) it allows examination of deep ileal loops in the pelvis without superimposition, and (c) it permits evaluation of the surrounding mesentery and perienteric fat. CT enterography also allows assessment of solid organs and provides a global overview of the abdomen.” (p. 642)

CTE is foreseen by the authors as the modality of choice for ruling out Crohn disease in patients with a presumed diagnosis of irritable bowel syndrome. (p. 655)

“The capacity to help accurately determine the severity and extent of Crohn disease has made CT enterography the first-line modality at our institution in patients with suspected inflammatory bowel disease.” (p. 655)

Compared with capsule endoscopy, CTE had equivalent sensitivity and superior specificity in detecting small bowel inflammation. (p. 655)

“Preliminary evidence suggests that CT enterography may help predict active small bowel Crohn disease on a par with capsule endoscopy (23) and may help identify small bowel strictures (Fig 6), which may contraindicate capsule use. That CT enterography helps detect both active Crohn disease and small bowel strictures is particularly important now that early reports have shown that endoscopic patency capsules may themselves precipitate small bowel obstruction (24, 25).” (pp. 645-646)

Reference:

Paulsen SR, Huprich JE, Fletcher JG, et al. CT enterography as a diagnostic tool in evaluating small bowel disorders: Review of clinical experience with over 700 cases. *RadioGraphics* 2006; 26:641-657.



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