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Scientific research process

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1 What did this study explore?

In our study, we investigated clinical characteristics, diagnostic utility, bowel cleansing preparation, sedation, and colonoscope length and diameter in 110 Japanese patients under 15 years of age who had undergone their first colonoscopy in our institution to determine guidelines for pediatric colonoscopy.

2 How did the authors perform all experiments?

Shinichiro Yoshioka, Hidetoshi Takedatsu, Keiichi Mitsuyama and Takuji Torimura designed the research; Shinichiro Yoshioka, Hidetoshi Takedatsu, Shuhei Fukunaga, Kotaro Kuwaki, Hiroshi Yamasaki, Ryosuke Yamauchi, Atsushi Mori, Hiroshi Kawano, Osamu Tsuruta, Tadahiro Yanagi, Tatsuki Mizuochi, and Kosuke Ushijima collected the data; Shinichiro Yoshioka and Hidetoshi Takedatsu analyzed the data; Shinichiro Yoshioka and Hidetoshi Takedatsu wrote the paper.

3 How did the authors process all experimental data?

After approving by The Ethical Committee of Kurume University, we identified and collected the data in Kurume University. The original identification number of each patient has been scrambled to protect patient privacy before analyzing. The initial results were presented in a meeting and discussed before drafting manuscript. Corresponding author critically reviewed the paper and all authors approved the final manuscript.

4 How did the authors deal with the pre-study hypothesis?

There were no guidelines of pediatric colonoscopy in Japan. We submit the proposal to apply for the IRB approval. After IRB approval, we started to perform the study to determine the guidelines of pediatric colonoscopy.

5 What are the novel findings of this study?

Our findings suggest that the appropriate management, such as bowel cleansing preparation, sedation, and the selection of colonoscopy, before and during the colonoscopy is important in pediatric patients. Furthermore, positive diagnoses were obtained by colonoscopy in a majority of pediatric patients.

More than 40% of patients were diagnosed with inflammatory bowel disease.

Therefore, colonoscopy has utility as a diagnostic tool for pediatric patients with gastrointestinal symptoms and may represent an important component of treatment strategies for early and appropriate treatment of pediatric patients.