



## 6<sup>th</sup> WSES Congress 2019

**Title:** Implementing change in management of acute diverticulitis in a surgical assessment unit

**Authors:** Dr Amy Frank, Mr Aftab Khan, Mr Basim Al-Robaie, Mr Michael Saunders

**Affiliations:** East Sussex NHS Trust

**Topic:** Emergency abdominal surgery

### **START COUNT**

**Background:** NICE has published an evidence based clinical knowledge summary (CKS) to guide management strategy for acute diverticulitis.

**Aim:** This study aimed to compare current practice with NICE CKS for management of patients with acute diverticulitis.

**Methods:** Sixty patients were included in a prospective audit and completed audit cycle. Consecutive patients with a diagnosis of acute diverticulitis were identified. Data were recorded including demographic information, severity of disease, radiological grading, treatment and follow up management.

**Results:** First cycle of audit revealed that all patients with *uncomplicated* diverticulitis were treated with oral antibiotics but none reviewed within 48 hours, as per guidelines. Only 25% were offered appropriate follow up investigation. Those admitted with *complicated* diverticulitis were appropriately assessed and treated, but 11% not offered follow up investigation. This outlined key areas for improvement. Following departmental awareness strategies, the repeat cycle revealed significant improvement in follow up of *uncomplicated* diverticulitis. However, 20% patients with *complicated* diverticulitis remained inappropriately not offered outpatient colonoscopy.

**Discussion:** Patients with both uncomplicated and complicated diverticulitis were treated appropriately. However, there was a lack of post-treatment follow up in these patients. The practice has improved after increasing awareness of pitfalls within the department, particularly in uncomplicated groups, but further improvements are warranted.

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**Position presenting author:** Dr A Frank: Foundation Year 2 Doctor (U.K)

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