

TO THE EDITOR:

I read with interest the article entitled "Same Day Surgery Ileostomy Closure?"¹ In this article, Dr. Moran describes an ileostomy closure management pathway in which the patient is managed either as an outpatient or as a same-day surgery case for loop ileostomy closure.

All the patients presented in this series of six were adults. I am writing to offer a word of caution in extrapolating these data to children, and young children in particular. These types of limited studies are often either quoted or represented as a standard. Loop ileostomy closure, and ileostomy closure in general, for children, especially infants, may require longer periods for return to enteral nutrition due to the mechanical limitations of the bowel anastomosis. Specifically, a small amount of edema or hematoma can result in a more significant obstructive pattern. Early discharge in this scenario is not a reasonable option.

Furthermore, the discussion section of this manuscript states that the same-day surgical procedure is feasible if specific technical details are followed. The paper refers extensively to use of the stapled anastomosis, which is purported to yield a larger lumen for the anastomosis. Again, in children, the use of the GIA stapler is not an option, due to the mechanical limitations of this device and, in most cases, the size of the child.

For these reasons, I write to offer a word of caution in using these types of manuscripts to extrapolate surgical techniques and practice patterns in different patient populations who undergo similar procedures.

Charles S. Cox, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics
The University of Texas at Houston Medical School
Houston, TX 77030

1. Moran MR. Same-day surgery ileostomy closure? *Am J Man Care* 1997;3:1003-1006.

AUTHOR'S REPLY:

I would like to thank Dr. Cox for his comments and agree that the results of this study should not be extrapolated to children.

Manuel R. Moran, MD

Assistant Professor of Surgery
Texas Tech School of Medicine
Lubbock, TX 79430