Abstract

Background: Anterograde mechanical bowel cleansing is a common practice in colorectal surgery. However it can produce physiological disturbances and can be associated to a higher frequency of septic complications. Aim: To evaluate the appearance of histological alterations in the colon wall, associated to anterograde bowel cleansing. Material and methods: All patients subjected to elective colon surgery were randomized to a group with and other group without anterograde mechanical bowel cleansing before surgery. Patients subjected to preoperative radiotherapy and those that were subjected to bowel cleansing the week previous to surgery, were excluded. A sample was obtained from normal colon mucosa, far from the lesion that motivated surgery. A sample was obtained from normal colon mucosa, far from the lesion that motivated surgery. The pathologist was unaware of the group assignation of patients. Results: Thirty four patients were studied. Eighteen (nine women) were randomized to receive mechanical bowel cleansing, 14 (eight women) did not receive cleansing and two were excluded from the study. No significant pathological bowel wall alterations were detected in the group subjected to mechanical cleansing. Conclusions: No pathological alterations of the bowel wall, attributed to anterograde bowel cleansing, were detected in this group of patients.

Keywords
Mechanical bowel cleansing, histological alterations in the colon wall.