

Hussein Sweiti

Dr. med.

**The Prognosis of Acute Ischemic Colitis in Patients Undergoing Surgical Intervention:
The Ischemic Colitis Mortality Risk Score**

Promotionsfach: Chirurgie

Doktorvater: Prof. Dr. med. J. Weitz

Ischemic colitis is a medical condition affecting the blood perfusion of the colon and presenting in various clinical pictures. Some moderate disease patterns may be treated conservatively but more severe forms usually require emergency surgical intervention and extensive bowel resections. Patients undergoing operative treatment for acute ischemic colitis often suffer from a prolonged postoperative stay in the intensive care unit and an uncertain outcome. Many studies continue to reveal exceptionally high rates of postoperative morbidity and mortality which have not declined in the past decades. In this study, we aimed to develop a predictive risk score for perioperative mortality and to examine long-term follow-up of patients with acute ischemic colitis.

Data from 237 patients undergoing surgical treatment for acute ischemic colitis at the Chirurgische Klinik in Heidelberg from January 2002 until January 2008 were prospectively collected. Of these patients, only 177 with histopathologically confirmed ischemic colitis were included in the final data analysis. The influence of many independent predictors such as gender, age, comorbidities, postoperative complications as well as pre- and intraoperative risk factors was assessed by uni- and multivariate analysis. Long-term survival was calculated by the Kaplan-Meier method.

This study for the first time presents a risk score highly predictive of postoperative mortality of patients undergoing an operation for ischemic colitis. Our score may help to further select and modify therapeutic management in patients with acute ischemic colitis on the basis of validated data. Furthermore, we were able to demonstrate a significant influence of mesenteric atherosclerosis on long-term survival of patients with acute ischemic colitis.