

# Rates of Surgical Site Infection After Colorectal Surgery in Turkey

## Türkiye’de Kolorektal Cerrahi Sonrası Cerrahi Alan Enfeksiyon Oranları

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**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Kolon, rektum, cerrahi alan enfeksiyonu

Dear editor,

We read the article entitled “Predictive Factors for Surgical Site Infection After Colorectal Cancer Surgery” by Aydın and Soylu<sup>1</sup> published in Turk J Colorectal Dis 2018; 28:61-8 with great interest. Despite advances in patient care and surgical technique in colorectal surgery, surgical site infections (SSI) continue to be a major cause of morbidity. Therefore, we value every study related to efforts to prevent SSI after colorectal surgery. Half of the studies conducted in Turkey have reported colorectal SSI at rates of 11% or lower.<sup>2,3,4,5,6,7</sup> We believe these rates are underestimated for various reasons (Table 1). For this reason, we appreciate the fact that Aydın and Soylu<sup>1</sup> reported a realistic SSI rate. In addition, we would like to ask the authors some questions and offer suggestions regarding their study.

1. Multivariate analysis would have been more accurate for determining independent variables. For example, in some studies preoperative hypoalbuminemia, operative time, and body mass index were identified as independent variables in multivariate analyses.<sup>4,6</sup>

2. Modifiable independent variables could be evaluated by ROC curve analysis and risk analysis can be done at the cut-off values.

3. Why were anaerobic antibiotics not used in elective surgeries? Did the patients perform mechanical bowel cleansing?

4. Were there no cases of organ SSI? Was there growth in cultures of the SSIs?

We thank the authors for their valuable work.

### Ethics

**Informed Consent:** Not applicable.

**Peer-review:** Internally peer-reviewed.

### Authorship Contributions

Surgical and Medical Practices: A.A., Concept: A.A., C.K., Design: A.A., C.K., Data Collection or Processing: A.A., Analysis or Interpretation: A.A., C.K., Literature Search: A.A., Writing: A.A., C.K.

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**Table 1.** Studies conducted in Turkey evaluating surgical site infection in colorectal surgery

Author(s)/year	Patient number	Patient group	SSI rate (%)
Aydın and Soylu, 2018 <sup>1</sup>	86	Emergency/elective	24.4
Acar et al., 2017 <sup>5</sup>	66	Emergency/elective	36.4
Ozdemir et al., 2016 <sup>7</sup>	90	Elective	53.3
Leblebicioglu et al., 2015 <sup>2</sup>	2378	Emergency/elective	11.4
Aktaş et al., 2012 <sup>6*</sup>	153	Emergency/elective	17.6
Kaya et al., 2006 <sup>3</sup>	198	Emergency/elective	8.6

\*: Excluding organ surgery site infection



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