

Introduction: Into the depths! Guiding minimally-invasive management of small-bowel pathology

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Presentation

Endoscopy

Radiology & Imaging

Small Intestine & Nutrition

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This educational presentation celebrates the 24-year anniversary of capsule endoscopy and double balloon enteroscopy, introduced in 2001, which revolutionized minimally invasive small bowel diagnosis and therapy.

KEY POINTS

- The speaker describes how capsule endoscopy and double balloon enteroscopy, though developed independently, are complementary technologies that transformed small bowel care by enabling visualization and treatment without surgery.
- Double balloon enteroscopy uses two balloons to grip the long, floppy small bowel, allowing endoscopists to reach and treat lesions that were previously accessible only through open surgery.
- The main clinical indications discussed are small bowel bleeding (from vascular lesions or tumours) and strictures, with double balloon enteroscopy enabling biopsy, marking for surgery, and dilation.
- Advances in capsule endoscopy resolution and artificial intelligence, along with improved CT enterography imaging, provide complementary diagnostic approaches.
- Guidelines, technical reviews, performance measures, and quality indicators have been established for these procedures over the past two decades.

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