

Mistakes in colonoscopy and how to avoid them

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Mistakes In Articles

Endoscopy

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This article identifies six common avoidable mistakes in colonoscopy that impact safety, quality, and post-colonoscopy colorectal cancer rates.

KEY POINTS

- Colonoscopy is a complex procedure requiring technical and non-technical skills including manual and visuospatial abilities, pathology interpretation, patient communication, and use of advanced therapeutic technologies.
- Each colonoscopy varies due to patient factors, sedation strategy, anatomical configuration, technical challenges, and endoscopist skills, requiring individualised clinical intention and team-based patient management.
- Avoiding common mistakes can improve procedure safety and quality, reduce post-colonoscopy colorectal cancer rates, and enhance patient experience and adherence to surveillance programmes.
- The article draws on evidence and the authors' collective clinical and research experience of endoscopy errors and patient safety.

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