

A reaction to silicone spray

A 50-year-old man underwent surveillance colonoscopy following a right hemicolectomy for a Duke's stage A tumor of the ascending colon 5 years previously. At colonoscopy, an 8-mm polyp was found in the distal sigmoid. A silicone spray was used to assist in snaring of the polyp. The patient immediately developed pain, and the rectum was noted to become erythematous. The patient settled with conservative management. Although some silicone compounds are known to irritate mucous membranes, the active ingredient in silicone spray used in endoscopy, dimethylpolysiloxane, is not harmful. However, propane and butane, which are used as propellants in the spray, can cause frostbite and freeze burns. Such sprays should be used with caution in endoscopic procedures.

Competing interests: None

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Bibliography

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Fig. 1 Polyp in the distal sigmoid.



Fig. 2 Removal of polyp.



Fig. 3 a,b Erythematous reaction.