A 79-year-old man underwent a colonoscopy with rectal adenomatous polyp removal. As the colonoscope traversed the sigmoid colon, the operator felt a small ‘pop’. An abdominal computed tomography scan revealed extraluminal air in the retroperitoneum.

Surgical consultation suggested repair of the perforation by using a combined endoscopic and laparoscopic approach. A 5-mm transmural perforation was found in the sigmoid colon (Fig. 1). Endoclips (Resolution clips; Boston Scientific, Boston, Massachusetts, USA) were applied to the mucosal side of the perforation with a colonoscope as well as laparoscopic assistance. The laparoscope was used to manipulate the colon externally from the serosal side, bringing the perforation to face the colonoscope directly, and avoiding tangential placement of the endoclips (Fig. 2).

Three endoclips were deployed without complication (Fig. 3). A water irrigation test was performed: the proximal bowel was clamped and then the area of repaired perforation was placed under water from the serosal side, bringing the perforation to face the colonoscope directly, and avoiding tangential placement of the endoclips.

A water irrigation test confirmed the closure of the perforation. To our knowledge, this is the first case of colonic perforation where colonoscopy and laparoscopy were used to complete a repair effectively, without colonic resection or colostomy placement. The repair was accomplished with three steps: mucosal sealing of the perforation; an air leak test with the aid of local water irrigation (i.e. a water irrigation test); and direct observation for air bubbles during colonic air insufflation. Total serosal closure was completed with laparoscopic sutures.

Our approach with endoclips and laparoscopy provided a prompt repair of the colonic perforation and improved the outcome for the patient, who had an earlier discharge on the fourth postoperative day.

### Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Site of perforation</th>
<th>Time to recognition</th>
<th>Time to endoscopic surgery</th>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Discharge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yoshikane et al. 1997</td>
<td>Descending colon</td>
<td>Immediate</td>
<td>Promptly</td>
<td>Endoclipping</td>
<td>14 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mana et al. 2001</td>
<td>Sigmoid colon</td>
<td>Immediate</td>
<td>Promptly</td>
<td>Endoclipping</td>
<td>&gt; 1 week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhalla 2004</td>
<td>Cecum</td>
<td>Immediate</td>
<td>Promptly</td>
<td>Endoclipping</td>
<td>Not described</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbagallo et al. 2007</td>
<td>Right flexure</td>
<td>Immediate</td>
<td>Promptly</td>
<td>Endoclipping</td>
<td>8 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senadhi et al. (December 2007; current report)</td>
<td>Sigmoid colon</td>
<td>Immediate</td>
<td>&lt; 12 h for endoscopic and laparoscopic repair</td>
<td>Endoclipping and laparoscopic repair</td>
<td>4 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our approach with endoclips and laparoscopy provided a prompt repair of the colonic perforation and improved the outcome for the patient, who had an earlier discharge on the fourth postoperative day. To our knowledge, this is the first case of colonic perforation where colonoscopy and laparoscopy were used to complete a repair effectively, without colonic resection or colostomy placement. The repair was accomplished with three steps: mucosal sealing of the perforation; an air leak test with the aid of local water irrigation (i.e. a water irrigation test); and direct observation for air bubbles during colonic air insufflation. Total serosal closure was completed with laparoscopic sutures.

Competing interests: None

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Senadhi V et al. Colonoscopy and laparoscopy to close a colonic perforation... Endoscopy 2010; 42: E213–E214
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Corresponding author

V. Senadhi
Johns Hopkins University/Sinai Hospital Program in Internal Medicine
2606B Gage Court
Baltimore, MD 21209
USA
Fax: +1-678-623-5999
vosenadhi@hotmail.com