**Purpose**

To establish a procedure on how to gross and process colon resections for diverticulosis.

**Colonic Diverticulosis:** Usually multiple saclike protrusions in the colonic wall that develop as a result of herniation of the mucosa and submucosa through points of weakness in the muscular wall of the colon. It is important to look and assess for areas of frank perforation, exudate, abscess formations, inflammation and incidental findings. Note: The plural form of diverticulum is **diverticula.**

**Procedure**

* Open colon along the anti-mesenteric aspect and fix in formalin overnight.
* Measure and dictate length, diameter and any accompanying structures i.e. omentum, mesentery, rectum, etc.
* Assess the serosa, mesentery and mucosa for any gross abnormalities and dictate findings.
* Bread loaf colon along the long axis in 0.5cm increments or less. Use a probe as a guide to find diverticular pockets (run blade along probe to obtain cross section).
* Assess colonic walls for thickened areas, perforations, abscess formations or any other abnormalities.
* Dictate findings and take photos, if pertinent.

***Sections for Histology***

* Submit 2-3 cassettes of largest diverticula. Include areas of perforation or abscess formations.
* Submit any other incidental findings.

***Sample Dictation***

“Sigmoid colon”, Received in a large container filled with formalin is an 18.0 cm (length) x 4.0 cm (diameter) unoriented segment of sigmoid colon with attached mesocolon and epiploic appendages. The serosal surfaces are unremarkable. The mesocolon is markedly indurated with scattered areas containing fibrinous exudate. The colonic wall is remarkable for a perforated diverticulum, which communicates with a 1.8 x 1.0 x 1.0 cm abscess involving the mesocolon. The other diverticula are intact and filled with fecal matter. Two incidental polyps are also identified, measuring 0.5 and 0.7 cm each in greatest dimension. They are widely clear of the margins. The remaining colon is unremarkable.

Cassette Summary:

A1-A2. Perforated diverticulum including abscess. (1ss each)

A3. Two polyps.

***Sample Photographs***



