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Foreword



About a quarter of cases of intestinal obstruction occur in the colon and rectum. In contrast with the more common obstruction of the small intestine, large bowel obstruction is a distinct condition with its own etiologies and pathophysiology. Although the most common cause is malignancy, a host of unusual conditions can produce colorectal obstruction. In this issue of *Current Problems in Surgery*, Dr. Nicholas George Farkas from the Basildon University Hospital and his colleagues from the West Middlesex University Hospital have written a insightful overview on this topic entitled, "Unusual Causes of Large Bowel Obstruction." They begin with a discussion of the history of this condition, including the progression of surgical therapy to the modern era. The epidemiology, embryology, anatomy, and pathophysiology are each addressed in appropriate detail. Subsequent sections cover presentation, investigation, and management. Unusual causes including infection, foreign bodies, gallstones, bezoars, iatrogenic causes, congenital etiologies, and hernias are each addressed in significant detail. This superb review should become a valued addition to the literature on this complex topic and a resource not only for surgeons in training but for all practitioners caring for patients with these conditions.

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