

Main topic

Hirschsprung's disease

Editorial comments on the symposium on Hirschsprung's disease

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In this second issue of *Pediatric Surgery International*, we are presenting a short symposium on Hirschsprung's disease consisting of five separate articles from three different institutions with extensive experience in the management of this disease. We have highlighted our experience at the Mott Children's Hospital in the University of Michigan Medical Center with three separate articles dealing with neonatal Hirschsprung's disease, the suction rectal biopsy, and the endorectal pull-through. The high incidence of Hirschsprung's disease in the newborn and the value of the suction rectal biopsy in making the diagnosis in this age group are emphasized in the first two papers. Our large experience and excellent results with the endorectal pull-through are described in our third manuscript.

Doctors Vane and Grosfeld have reported on a very large series of patients with Hirschsprung's disease who have been managed with the Duhamel procedure quite successfully. Finally, Dr. Weitzman has reported his own personal experience with 80 patients managed exclusively with the Swenson procedure. His results and long-term follow-up are quite impressive.

The excellent results achieved with all three operative procedures emphasize the fact that it is the skill of the surgeon rather than the particular operation that determines the outcome following surgery for Hirschsprung's disease.