

immune complex-mediated glomerular injury,⁴ proliferative glomerulonephritis is a rare complication of inflammatory bowel disease. Only one other case of proliferative glomerulonephritis has been described.

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Use of Simethicone During Colonoscopy

To the Editor—Colonoscopy requires optimal visualization of the entire mucosal surface. The occurrence of foam and bubbles is a well-known problem in upper and lower gastrointestinal endoscopy. The presence of such frothy secretions may prevent satisfactory endoscopic evaluation of the entire mucosal surface. This may require multiple aspirations of the adherent foam and the need for intraprocedural adjunctive lavages, thus lengthening the time required for diagnostic examination. We describe a quick and reliable way of eradicating these frothy secretions by using simethicone (dilute) irrigation *via* colonoscope.

While performing surveillance during colonoscopy when the visual field is obscured by the presence of foam and bubbles in frothy secretions (Fig. 1), diluted simethicone solution (1 dropper in 30 ml of water) (Mylicon® Drops, J&J Merck, Ft. Washington, PA) is instilled *via* the biopsy channel of the colonoscope. Immediately the visual field becomes clear and mucosal details can be appreciated (Fig. 2).

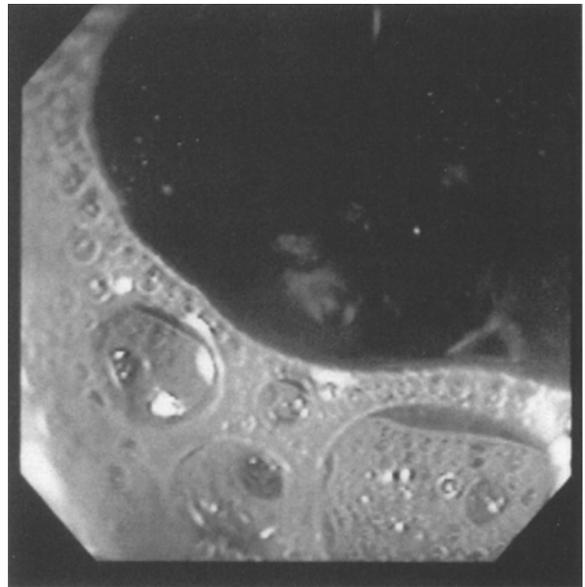


Figure 1. Endoscopic view showing frothy secretions.

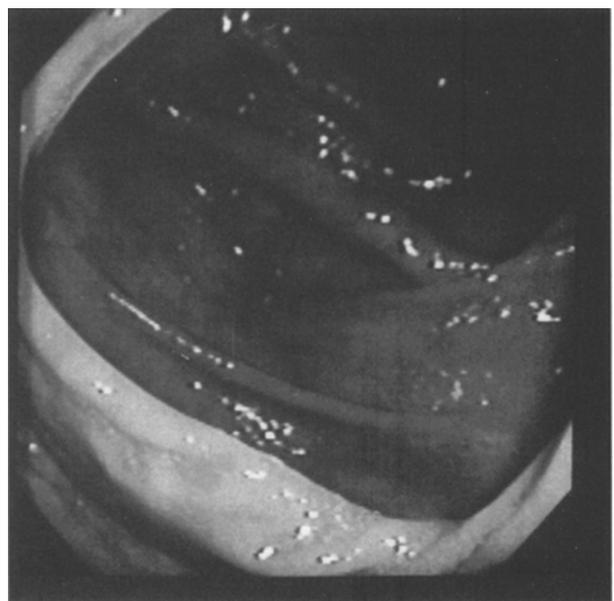


Figure 2. Clear visual field after simethicone instillation.

Air introduced during colonoscopy rapidly admixes with mucus and biliary secretions, thus forming foam and bubbles. This interferes with the optimal visualization of the entire mucosal surface. This is even more the case with patients who have undergone right colectomy, where biliary contents enter the colon readily and form foam.

Simethicone (polydimethylsiloxane) is a mixture of silicones activated by the addition of silica. Silicones are practically inert polymers, not absorbed from the gut. They lower surface tension and cause bubbles to coalesce.¹ Simethicone has been effectively used as a

preprocedure drink in improving visibility during esophagogastroduodenoscopy.^{2,3} If it is placed in the washbottle, the suspension can dry and clog the channels of the endoscope with solid deposits.

We recommend the use of diluted simethicone solution when the endoscopic field is obscured by the presence of frothy secretions containing foam and bubbles.

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