OUTCOMES 2008

DIVISION OF MEDICINE
Department of Gastroenterology

Cleveland Clinic
Florida
Cleveland Clinic Florida’s medical staff are dedicated physicians who have joined the clinic as salaried doctors to practice a different kind of medicine: Where commitment to patients, providing expert innovative care, and involvement in medical education are the goals.

We work as a team, access the same electronic medical records, and cooperate to give our patients the best care.

Providing excellent care to our patients is why we are here.
Department of Gastroenterology

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Staff

Roger J Charles, MD
Chairman
Fernando Castro, MD
Sunguk Jang, MD
Ronnie Pimentel, MD
Alison Schneider, MD
Andrew Ukleja, MD
Welcome to the Department of Gastroenterology at Cleveland Clinic Florida. The department is committed to excellence in patient care, education and research, and we are pleased to present information on the quality of care we deliver. This document highlights the work of the Department of Gastroenterology as well as collaboration between the Departments of Colorectal, Hepatobiliary, and Bariatric surgery. The goal of the Gastroenterology department is to provide comprehensive, innovative, state-of-the-art, compassionate and effective care to improve the quality of life of our patients. In addition to the use of innovative diagnostic tools and treatment, such as endoscopic ultrasound, ablative techniques for Barrett’s esophagus and Spyglass technology, we have the largest small bowel enteroscopy program in South Florida, and one of the largest in the state. Specialists in the medical and surgical treatment of gastrointestinal diseases work as a one team at Cleveland Clinic Florida, and this close collaboration enables a seamless transition of care between departments as the patients’ condition dictates. Our surgeons have excelled at every aspect of patient care, education and research and have pioneered improvements in patient care for a wide variety of gastrointestinal disorders. Together with our surgeons, we treat a large number of patients, both nationally and internationally with complex gastrointestinal disorders. The department is actively involved in the education of the future generation of gastroenterologists. We have an ACGME accredited fellowship program and also lecture to colleagues at national and international meetings. Research is an integral part of our daily activities and we have a number of ongoing research trials all designed to improve the quality of life of our patients.

Roger J Charles, MD
Chair, Department of Gastroenterology
Dr Fernando Castro - Gastroenterology Fellowship Program Director

**Interest:**
General gastroenterology, Inflammatory Bowel Gastroenterology, Diseases of the Liver

Dr Roger Charles - Chairman, Department of Gastroenterology

**Interest:**
General gastroenterology, Inflammatory bowel Disease, Diseases of the small bowel, capsule endoscopy, double balloon enteroscopy, spirus enteroscopy

Dr Sunguk Jang

**Interest:**
ERCP, EUS/FNA, Spyglass, Endoscopic Mucosectomy, Nonsurgical management of barrett’s esophagus with dysplasia, endoluminal stents, pancreatic and biliary diseases

Dr Ronnie Pimentel

**Interest:**
General gastroenterology, pancreatic and biliary diseases, ERCP, EUS/FNA, Endoluminal stents

Dr Alison Schneider

**Interest:**
General gastroenterology, disease of the esophagus, motility disorders of the GI tract, inflammatory bowel disease, irritable bowel syndrome and gastrointestinal diseases in women

Dr Ukleja

**Interest:**
General gastroenterology, nutritional diseases, radiations enteritis, celiac disease, inflammatory bowel disease
Quality of Care for the top 10 inpatient diagnoses and DRGs

The quality of care we deliver for the top 10 inpatient diagnoses and DRGs is superior to the national average with significantly lower mortality and complication rates.

Data Obtained from Solucient
Outcomes

Endoscopy Lab

Our hospital-based endoscopy unit offers state-of-the-art facilities and all of our instruments have high definition optics. In addition, board certified anesthesiologist provide MAC sedation for all of our patients.

Procedure Complication rates

We perform a high volume of procedures with complication rates lower than national average.
Colonoscopy Outcomes

We perform a large volume of colonoscopies yearly and our outcomes are better than the national benchmark.
Interventional Endoscopy and Hepatobiliary diseases

Our endoscopists perform a high volume of complex interventional procedures, some of which are listed below. We have the spyglass choledochoscope which is used to visualize the biliary system, and endoscopic ultrasound which has been a major breakthrough in diagnosis of gastrointestinal diseases. With endoscopic ultrasound, a probe is attached to the end of an endoscope, enabling accurate staging of gastrointestinal cancers and biopsy of tissue below the gastrointestinal tract mucosa.

- ERCP
- EUS/FNA
- Endoscopic mucosal Resection
- Ablative Therapies for Barrett’s esophagus
- SpyGlass Technology
- Luminal Stenting
Small Bowel Imaging

We have a variety of state-of-the-art tools for the evaluation and management of small bowel diseases. We have one of the largest programs in the State of Florida. In the past the small bowel was considered a black box with very few tools for evaluation of abnormalities. With the approval of the capsule endoscope by the FDA in 2001 and double balloon enteroscope in 2004, a wide variety of small bowel diseases can be treated obviating the need for surgery.

- Double Balloon Enteroscopy
- Capsule endoscopy
  - Patency Capsule
- Spirus Enteroscopy
Section of Nutritional Services
Under the direction of Dr. Ukleja, the section offers comprehensive evaluation of the nutritional needs of patients with digestive disorders. An integrated approach by dietitians, pharmacists, specialized physicians and home care services is used to offer a variety of services:

- Home Pareneteral Nutrition (TPN)
- Enteral Nutrition
- Radiation Enteritis Management
- Celiac Disease Management
- Short Bowel syndrome management

Motility Disorders
The GI Motility Laboratory at Cleveland Clinic Florida is an important part of our GI department where a wide variety of GI motility and functional disorders are evaluated and treated. One of the main areas treated are esophageal motor disorders such as in patients with dysphagia (difficulty swallowing), symptoms of gastroesophageal reflux (acid reflux), and difficult to diagnose esophageal problems. Other disorders treated include gastroparesis, functional dyspepsia, irritable bowel syndrome, and constipation. Diagnostic studies include: Esophageal motility tests, Ambulatory pH studies (including 48 hour Bravo capsule pH studies, pH/impedence testing), and breath tests for small bowel bacterial overgrowth and carbohydrate malabsorption. These tests are supplemented by those in other departments including gastric and gallbladder emptying (Nuclear Medicine), Anorectal manometry (Colorectal Surgery department), colon transit and Pelvic floor defecography (Radiology).

Swallowing and Esophageal Disorders
We have available a wide variety of treatment options for the management of the following disorders:

- Endoscopic Mucosal Resection and ablative for Barrett’s esophagus
- Achalasia Management
- Esophageal Cancer
- Esophageal Strictures
- Surgical Management of Complicated Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease

Inflammatory Bowel Disease
Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis are chronic inflammatory conditions of the gastrointestinal tract. The gastroenterologists and colorectal surgeons here at Cleveland Clinic Florida work as one team when managing patients with inflammatory bowel disease. We have all the available medical and surgical options for improving and maintaining the quality of life of patients afflicted with these diseases.

Liver Diseases
Our gastroenterologists treat a wide variety of liver diseases. We offer a full range of diagnostic and therapeutic options for management of common diseases of the liver such as the following: Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B, Primary biliary cirrhosis, primary sclerosing cholangitis and autoimmune hepatitis.

Gastrointestinal Surgery
Knowledgeable, experienced general surgeons at Cleveland Clinic Florida evaluate and treat the full range of complex general surgery problems.

The general surgeons specialize in:

- Surgical management of tumors in the esophagus, stomach, duodenum, biliary tract (liver, pancreas, bile duct) and small bowel
- Surgical management of other hepatobiliary and pancreatic diseases, including gallstones, portal hypertension, infections and cystic diseases
- Minimally invasive laparoscopic procedures, including cholecystectomy, hernia repair, splenectomy, appendectomy, and other advanced procedures
- Surgical treatment of benign and malignant breast disease, as coordinated through a multidisciplinary Breast Center
- Surgical treatment of thyroid and parathyroid disease in conjunction with Cleveland Clinic endocrinologists
- Evaluation and surgical treatment of obesity
Diseases of the Liver, Biliary Tract and Pancreas

Cleveland Clinic Florida’s general surgeons have extensive experience in the surgical treatment of benign and malignant disorders of the liver, bile duct and pancreas, including tumors and strictures. When necessary, the general surgeons work with their colleagues in radiology, radiation therapy, gastroenterology and oncology to provide comprehensive, advanced treatment.

Advanced Laparoscopic Procedures

Minimally invasive techniques are routinely used for many procedures, including cholecystectomy, inguinal and incisional hernia repair, splenectomy, laparoscopic surgery for gastrointestinal disorders and tumors, staging of complex intra-abdominal cancers, and surgery on the upper gastrointestinal tract, including Nissen fundoplication for gastro-esophageal reflux and Heller myotomy for esophageal achalasia.

Bariatric Surgery

Surgical Treatment of Obesity

The general surgeons specializing in bariatric surgery offer a comprehensive evaluation and state-of-the-art laparoscopic surgical procedures for morbid obesity, including laparoscopic gastric bypass and banding. The Bariatric Institute at Cleveland Clinic Florida has been named a Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence by the American Society for Bariatric Surgery and the Surgical Review Corporation. The designation, awarded to programs with a proven record of favorable outcomes for weight-loss surgery, also recognizes Cleveland Clinic bariatric surgeons Raul Rosenthal, M.D., and Samuel Szomstein, M.D.
Colorectal Surgery

Over the last almost two decades, by all national and international standards, we have excelled at every aspect of patient care, research, and education. Since our inception in 1988, virtually every new technique and technology has been either developed, at least in part, by our staff or immediately adopted. Our staff has pioneered improvements in patient care for rectal carcinoma, mucosal ulcerative colitis, familial adenomatous polyposis, Crohn’s disease, fecal incontinence, and hemorrhoids. In addition, we have developed or helped to develop numerous techniques including the stimulated graciloplasty, sacral nerve stimulation, artificial bowel sphincter, adhesion barriers, stapled treatment of prolapsing internal hemorrhoids, reconstruction with colonic J pouch following rectal cancer removal, and laparoscopic management of colorectal disorders.

Laparoscopic Colorectal Surgery

Laparoscopy has significant proven benefits for the treatment of a wide array of benign and malignant disorders. Our surgeons were among the first in the world to gain international acclaim for their expertise in laparoscopic colorectal surgery. In fact, our staff has performed laparoscopic colorectal surgery procedures for cancer and other disorders of the colon and rectum longer than the faculty in virtually any other training program.
**Education**

The department is dedicated to the education of the future practitioners of medicine. Medical students and residents from the US and all over the world visit our department. The GI department is actively involved in the training of our internal medicine residents.

Our GI department has the only ACGME accredited Gastroenterology Fellowship training program in Broward County Florida. Each year two fellows are selected among hundreds of applicants for the opportunity to train at the Clinic.

**Research**

List of Ongoing Research Trials

Effect of Nortriptyline on Abdominal Pain/Discomfort and Quality of Life in Patients With Nonulcer Dyspepsia

The Yield of Routine Duodenal Biopsies for the Evaluation of Celiac Disease

Colonoscopic Screening in Average Risk Individuals Ages 40-49 vs 50-59 Years

Detection of Colon Polyps in Hispanics

Capsule endoscopy studies

Use of a new device to improve the polyp detection rate during colonoscopy

A Randomized Endoscopist-Blinded Clinical Trial Comparing the bowel Cleansing Effect of Same Day PEG Bowel Preparation Regimen vs Regimen Given on the Day Before Colonoscopy.
Scholarly Activity: List of Recent Publications and presentations

Abstracts

Ukleja A, Cruz-Correa M, Castro-Pavia F. Anti-TTG antibody often negative in celiac disease. WCOG 2005, Montreal, Canada.


Manuscripts


Erim, Tolga1; Cruz-Correa, Marcia2; Szomstein, Samuel3; Velis, Evelio4; Rosenthal, Raul5. Prevalence of Helicobacter pylori Seropositivity Among Patients Undergoing Bariatric Surgery: A Preliminary Study World Journal of Surgery, Volume 32, Number 9, September 2008 , pp. 2021-2025(5)