

Imaging of endometriosis with computerized tomography colonography

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We demonstrate the use of computerized tomography colonography for the imaging of intestinal endometriosis to facilitate preoperative management in our hospital setting. (*Fertil Steril*® 2011;95:259–60. ©2011 by American Society for Reproductive Medicine.)

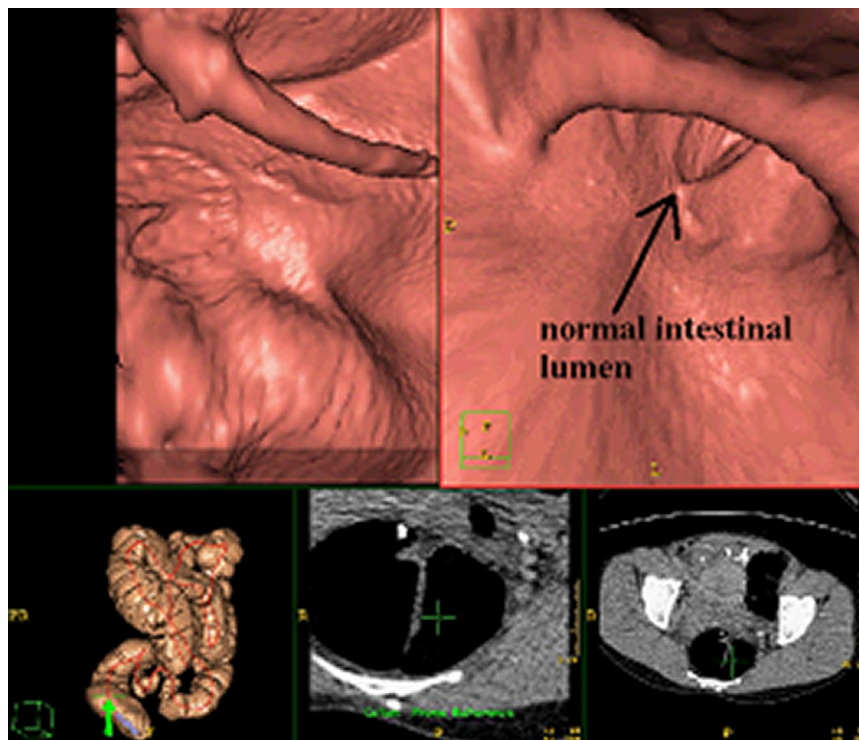
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Computerized tomography colonography (CTC), or otherwise virtual colonoscopy, is a well-established investigative technique (1) but represents a new modality for imaging endometriosis of the

bowel (2) (Fig. 1). We performed several CTC examinations preoperatively in patients with suspected involvement of the intestinal wall with endometriosis and obstructive symptoms.

FIGURE 1

Normal part, computerized tomography colonography.



Koutoukos. Images in reproductive medicine. Fertil Steril 2011.

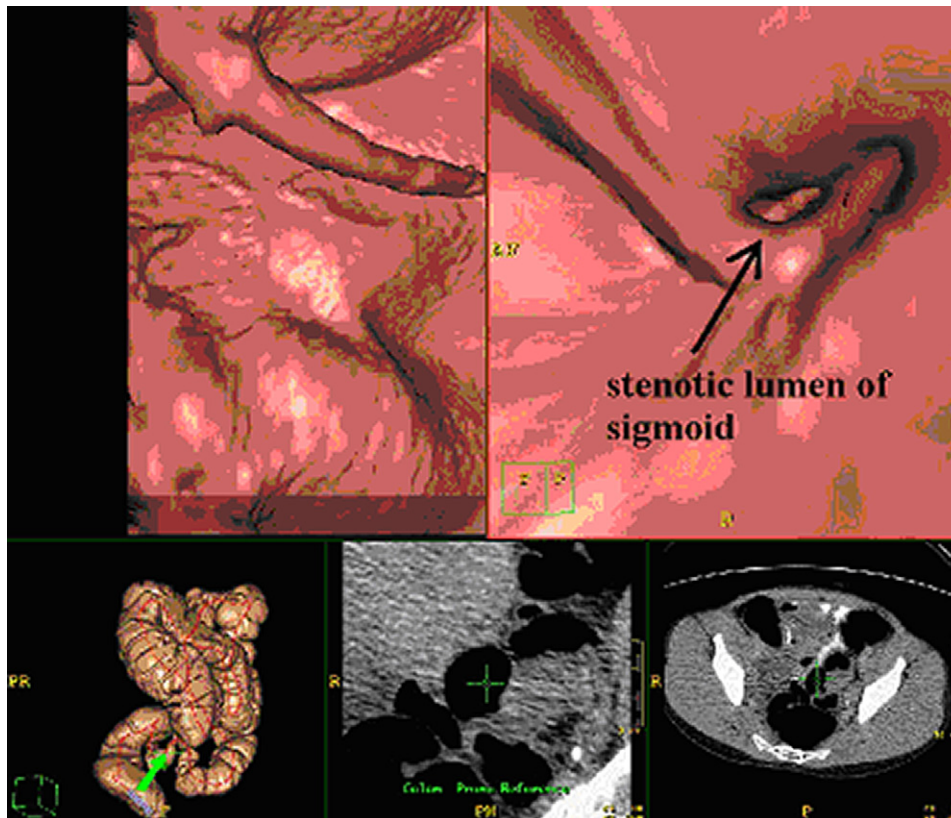
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FIGURE 2

Stenotic part, computerized tomography colonography.



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We employed a modified technique (2): a laxative the night before, the bowel content tagged with dilute barium, and a bisacodyl suppository before the CTC. A catheter is inserted in the rectum to facilitate CO₂ insufflation of the colon. The presence of intestinal endometriosis was verified by CTC in all cases, as well as extracolonic disease in some patients (3) (Fig. 2).

The standardization of this technique (1, 2) and the difficulty of predicting deep bowel involvement warranting resection (4, 5) have guided us to use this modality to image endometriosis of the bowel when obstructive symptoms are present and when lesions of the caecum are suspected, allowing us to plan the subsequent laparoscopic intestinal segmental resection.

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