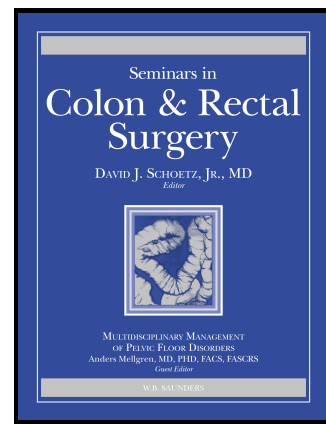


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Introduction

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Introduction

John Alverdy

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For generations, surgeons operating on the digestive track have recognized the potential harm that intestinal bacteria can cause to both the wound and anastomosis. Over time, clinicians began to analyze which species were responsible for postoperative infections, and developed rigorous intestinal cleansing and decontamination protocols that, to this day, remain efficacious. Yet looking back, we have come to realize that the knowledge which today forms the basis for our intestinal antisepsis protocols is more than fifty years old and clearly in need of a refresh.

The concept that the intestinal microbiota could also provide health benefits was recognized by Dr Benjamin Eiseman, who performed the first fecal transplant in the US for fulminant antibiotic-

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