

New Colonoscopy Platforms

D.Rex

The current colonoscopy platforms, which consist of relatively stiff bendable tubes, are extremely useful diagnostic and therapeutic instruments in the colon. The main rationale to develop new colonoscopy platforms is to overcome the limitations of the current instruments. These limitations include a limited angle of view of the colonic mucosa, the production of pain, and the long learning curve to develop true expertise in passage of the instruments. The stiffness of the current instruments and the development of loops that stretch the mesentery result in the need for sedation in many circumstances.

A number of new colonoscopy platforms are under development to try to address the limitations of current colonoscopes. Most of these devices have had limited clinical testing but some of them have taken attractive and very innovative approaches to the challenges posed by the limitation of current colonoscopy platforms. Two devices under development by separate Israeli companies, the Aer-O-Scope and Neoguide, were reviewed in this presentation.