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## Current Problems in Surgery

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## Foreword



Treatment for diverticulitis continues to evolve. Over the last two decades, advances in our understanding of its natural history and improvements in medical management and surgical technique have dramatically altered approaches to this increasingly common disorder. In this issue of *Current Problems in Surgery*, Dr. Alexander Hawkins from the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville and colleagues from around the world have written a masterful overview on this topic entitled, "Diverticulitis: An Update From the Age Old Paradigm." After an introduction, they begin with a historical perspective and then move on to discuss the epidemiology, pathophysiology, and classification. Presentation, imaging, and criteria for outpatient management are covered in significant detail. Subsequent sections on uncomplicated and complicated disease are particularly lucid. Next they address the surgical management including the approach to takedown of a Hartmann's and the role of laparoscopic lavage. Final sections deal with segmental colitis associated with diverticulitis and diverticulitis in unusual locations. This superb review should become a frequently cited addition to the literature on this complex topic and a resource for all caregivers involved in the care of the patient with diverticular disease.

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