

**OSPEDALE SANTA MARIA NUOVA**  
*Chirurgia Generale, Bariatrica e Metabolica*  
**Firenze**



**SOCIETÀ MEDICA  
DI SANTA MARIA NUOVA**

## **L'ischemia intestinale: cosa fare e cosa non fare**

**Enrico Facchiano**

**X EDIZIONE**  
**Giornate mediche di**  
**Santa Maria Nuova 2018**



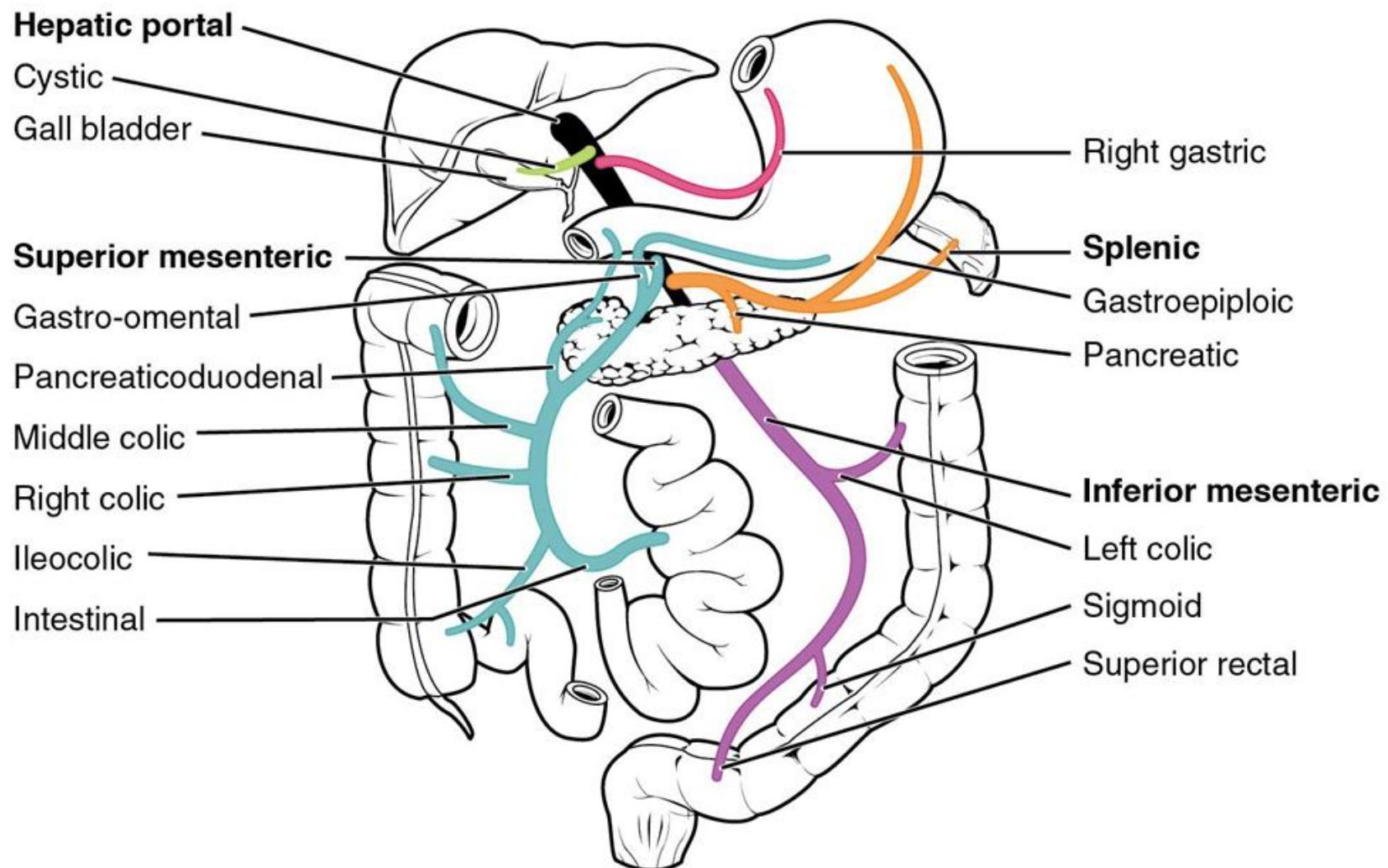
**IL DANNO TISSUTALE ISCHEMICO:**  
*sedi anatomiche,  
strategie terapeutiche e  
reti assistenziali*

**18-19 Ottobre 2018**

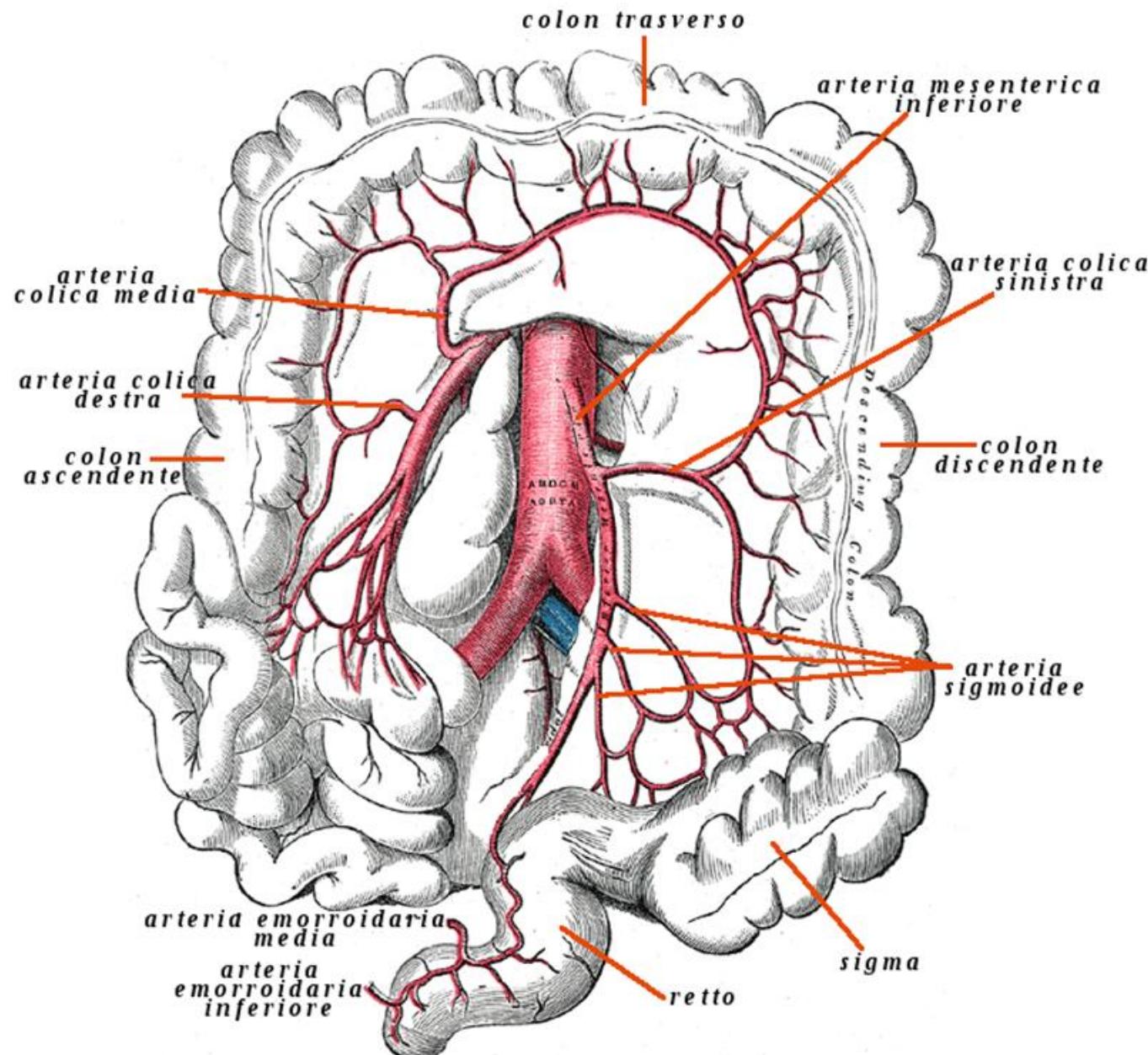
**Ischemia mesenterica acuta (IMA):**  
**apparizione improvvisa di un ostacolo alla**  
**circolazione in uno o più arterie viscerali**

Björk et al, Clinical Practice Guidelines of the  
European Society of Vascular Surgery.  
*Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg, 2017*

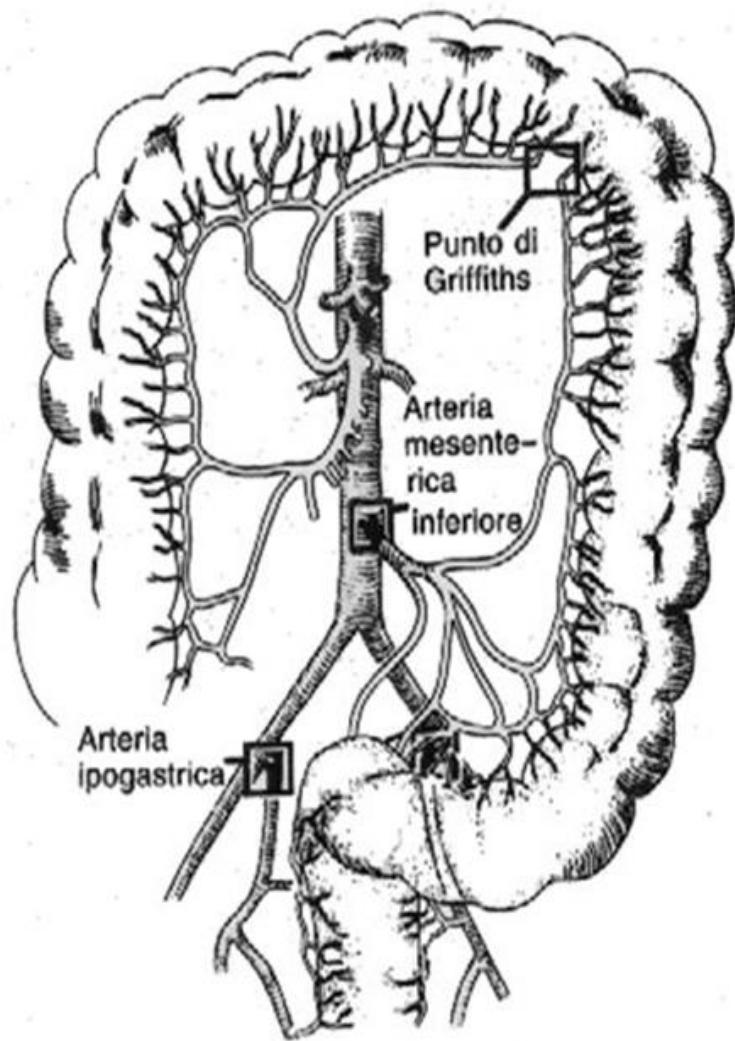
# Circolazione viscerale



# Circolazione mesenterica: anastomosi



# Circolazione mesenterica: punti critici



**Il punto di Griffith** è situato a livello dell'angolo colico sinistro, tra l'arteria colica sinistra e l'arcata del colon trasverso e interrompe il circolo di Riolano .

**Il punto di Sudeck** si colloca tra il sistema terminale dell'arteria mesenterica inferiore e l'arteria emorroidale superiore.

# Circolazione mesenterica: punti critici

**Il punto di Reiner** è costituito da un segmento dell'arteria mesenterica superiore, compreso fra il punto situato a monte dell'origine della seconda arteria intestinale e della colica media ed un punto a valle dell'ileocolica.

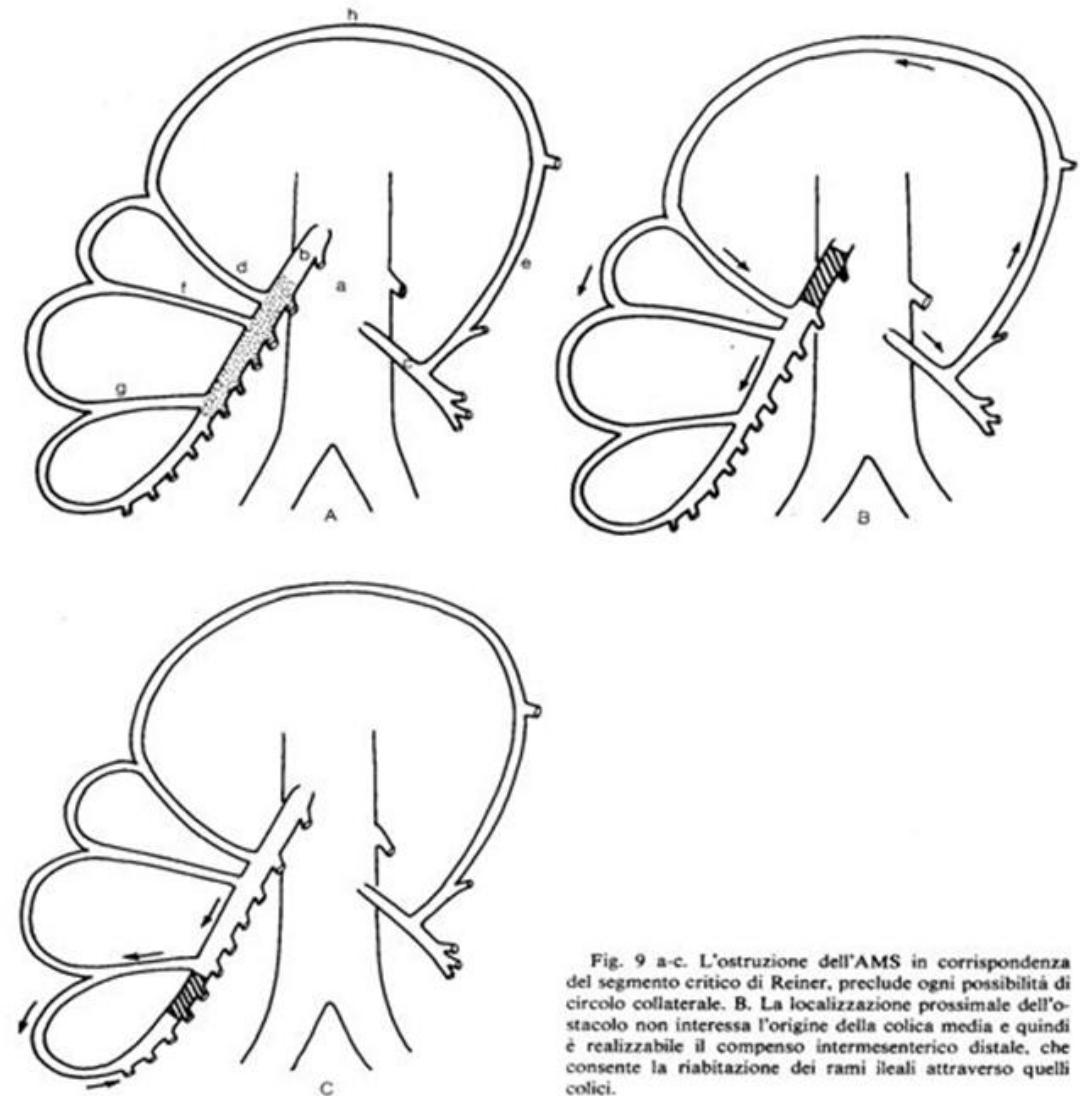


Fig. 9 a-c. L'ostruzione dell'AMS in corrispondenza del segmento critico di Reiner, preclude ogni possibilità di circolo collaterale. B. La localizzazione prossimale dell'ostacolo non interessa l'origine della colica media e quindi è realizzabile il compenso intermesenterico distale, che consente la riabilitazione dei rami ileali attraverso quelli colici.

# Anno 1926

**“... the diagnosis is impossible, the prognosis  
hopeless and the treatment useless...”**

**A.J. Cokkinis**

AJ Cokkinis. Mesenteric vascular occlusion.  
London: Baillière, Tindall & Cox; 1926. p. 1-93

# Anno 2017

- Mortalità 95%
- Mortalità in caso di trattamento adeguato: 75%
- In totale 1% dei casi di addome acuto
- Nei pazienti >70 aa: 10% dei casi

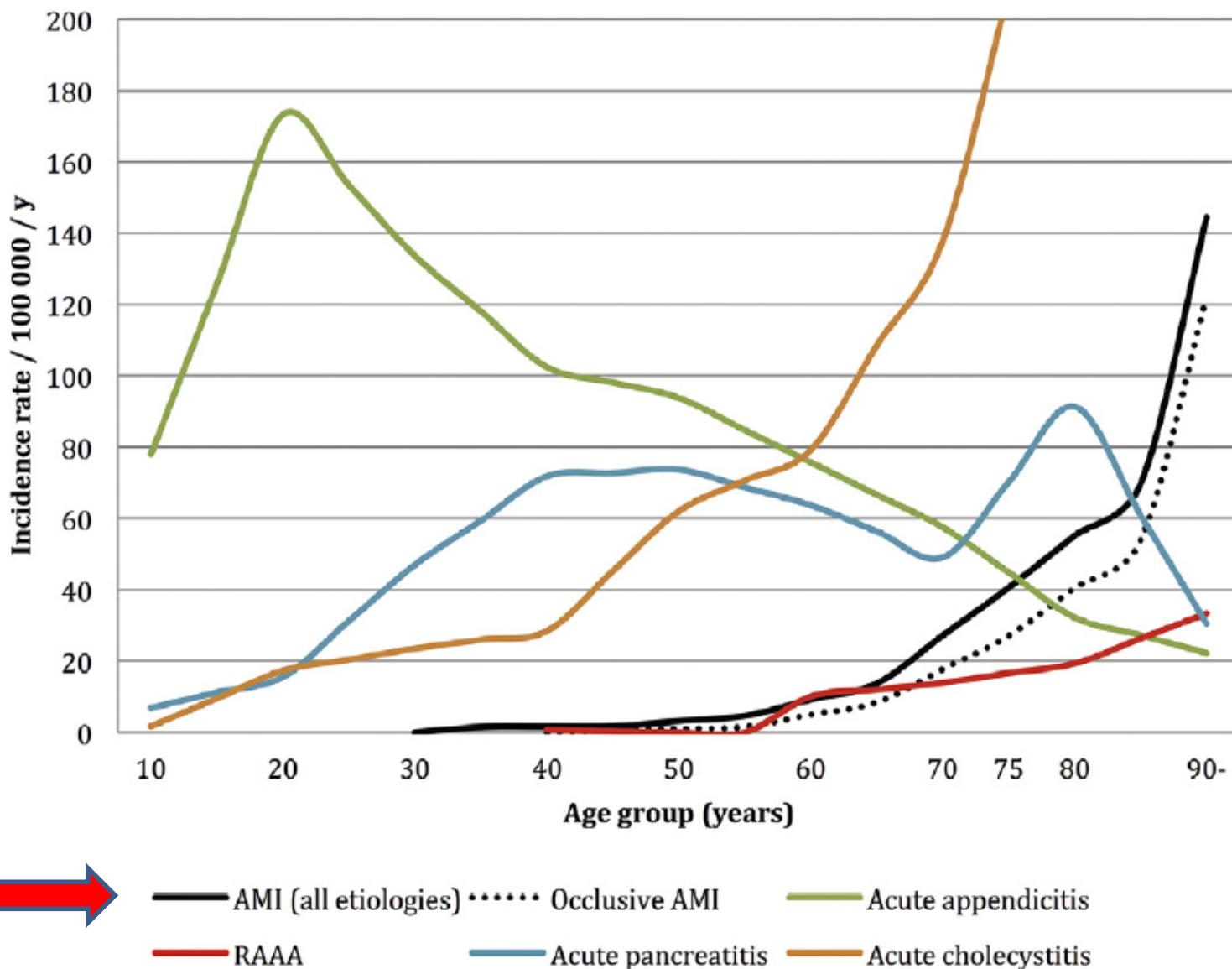
Björk et al, Clinical Practice Guidelines of the  
European Society of Vascular Surgery.  
*Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg, 2017*

# Cosa è cambiato di fatto?

- Diagnosi più rapida: TC multi-slice con m.d.c.
- Tecniche endovascolari
  - Negli USA mortalità dopo procedure endovascolari per IMA:

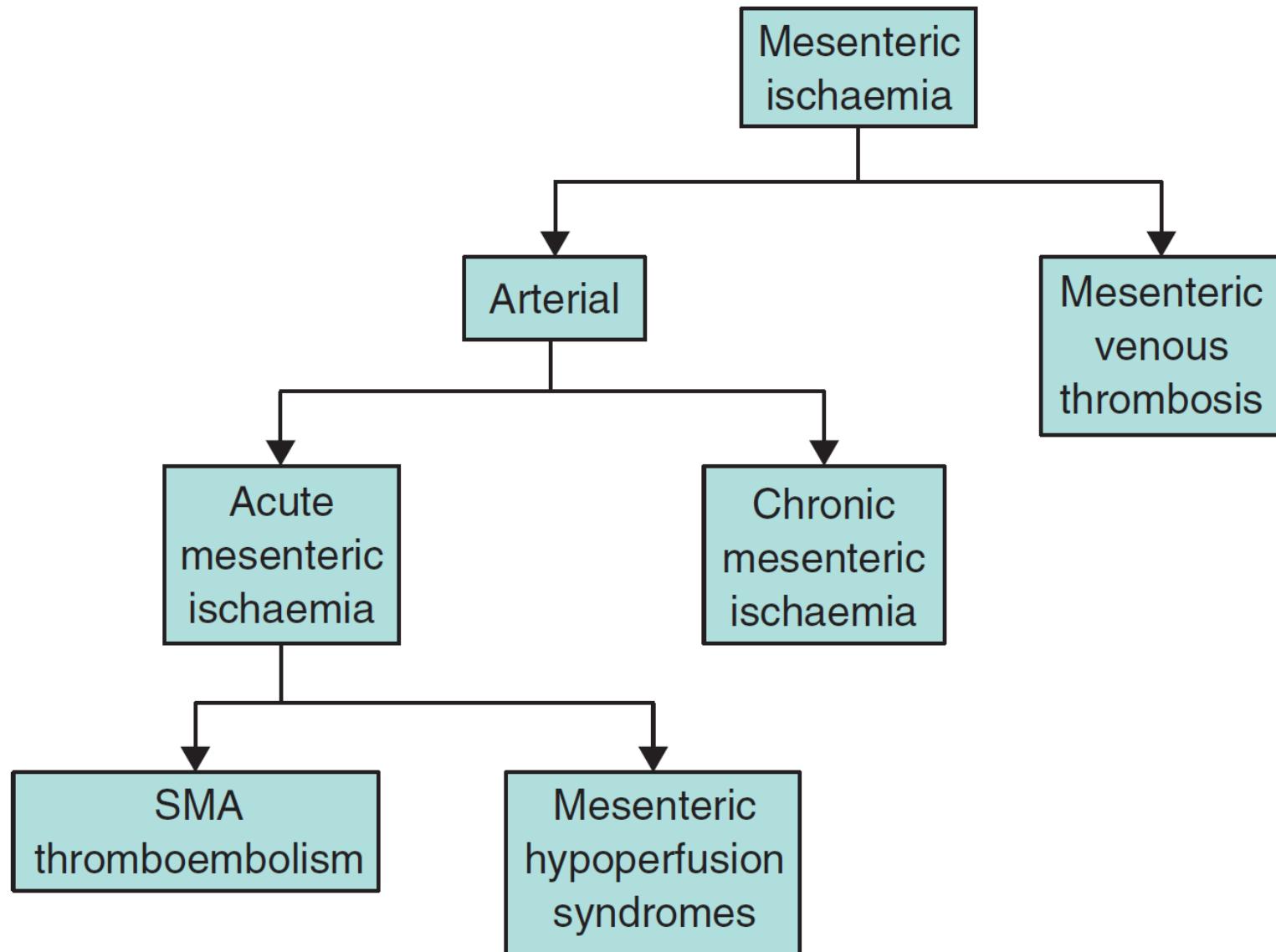
1995: 51%
2010: 26%

# Incidenza



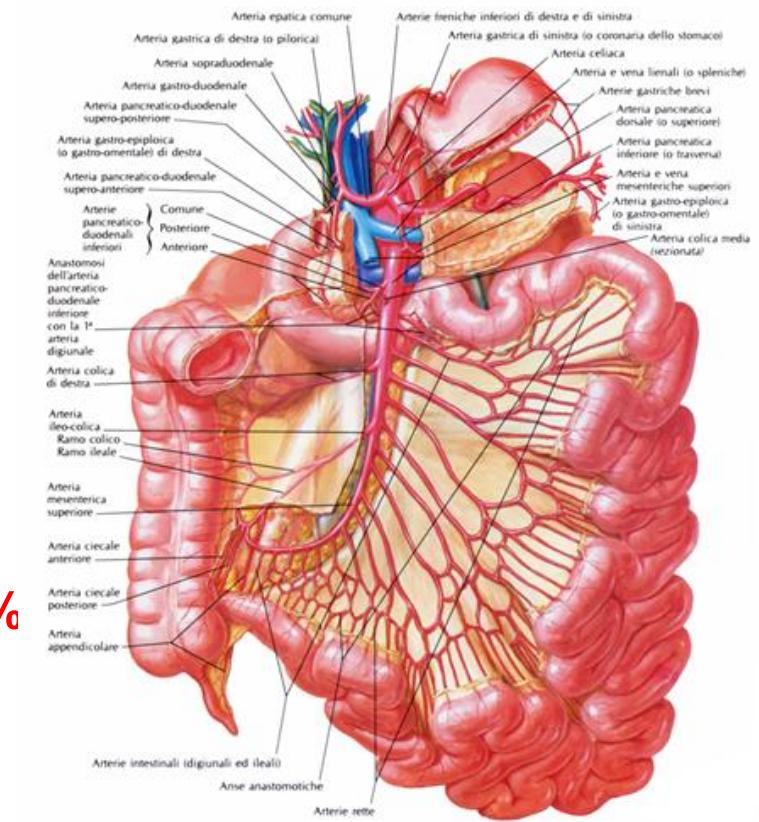
Kärkkäinen et al. J Gastrointest Surg, 2015

# Classificazione



# Differenti fenotipi di IMA

- **Embolia arteriosa mesenterica acuta: 50%**
  - Origine: atrio sinistro o placche atherosclerotiche aortiche
  - AMI vulnerabile a causa dell'angolo con l'aorta ed il diametro ampio all'origine
  - Solitamente stop a 3-10 cm dall'origine
- **Trombosi arteriosa acuta: 25%**
  - Di solito all'origine dell'AMS
  - Associata a malattia atherosclerotica
- **Ischemia mesenterica non occlusiva (NOMI): 20%**
  - Vasocostrizione con basso flusso splanchnico
- **Trombosi venosa mesenterica: 10%**
  - Triade di Virchow: diminuito flusso, ipercoagulabilità, infiammazione vascolare



# Fattori di rischio per i differenti fenotipi di IMA

**Table 2** Risk factors for specific phenotypes of AMI

Pathogenesis of AMI				
	Acute mesenteric arterial embolism	Acute mesenteric arterial thrombosis	NOMI	Mesenteric venous thrombosis
Risk factors	Atrial fibrillation Recent MI cardiac thrombi  Mitral valve disease Left ventricular aneurysm Endocarditis Previous embolic disease	Diffuse atherosclerotic disease Postprandial pain  Weight loss	Cardiac failure Low flow states Multi-organ dysfunction Vasopressors	Portal hypertension History of VTE  Oral contraceptives Estrogen use Thrombophilia Pancreatitis

AMI acute mesenteric ischemia, NOMI non-occlusive mesenteric ischemia, MI myocardial infarction, VTE venous thromboembolism

# Fattori predisponenti e sintomi

	SMA embolus	SMA thrombus	Venous thrombus
<b>History</b>			
Age $\geq$ 80 years	++	+	-
Age < 50 years	-	-	+
Women > men	+	+	+/-
Atrial fibrillation	++	-	-
Previous myocardial infarction	++	+	-
Stroke	+	++	-
Previous arterial embolism/source of embolus	++	-	-
Previous symptoms of chronic mesenteric ischaemia	-	++	-
Previous deep venous thrombosis or pulmonary embolism	-	-	++
Activated protein C resistance	-	-	++
Pancreatitis or pancreatic cancer	-	-	++
Liver cirrhosis/portal hypertension	-	-	++
<b>Symptoms</b>			
Sudden onset	++	+/-	-
Insidious onset	-	+	+
Abdominal pain	++	+	+
Vomiting	++	++	+
Diarrhoea	+	+	+
Bloody stools	+	+	+/-
Synchronous embolism	++	-	-

++, Factor likely to be present; +, factor perhaps present; -, factor unlikely to be present.

# Fattori prognostici

Time lapse till revascularization ←

Pathogenesis of the occlusion (embolism, thrombosis, NOMI)

Affected intestinal artery (celiac artery, SMA, IMA, multiple vessels)

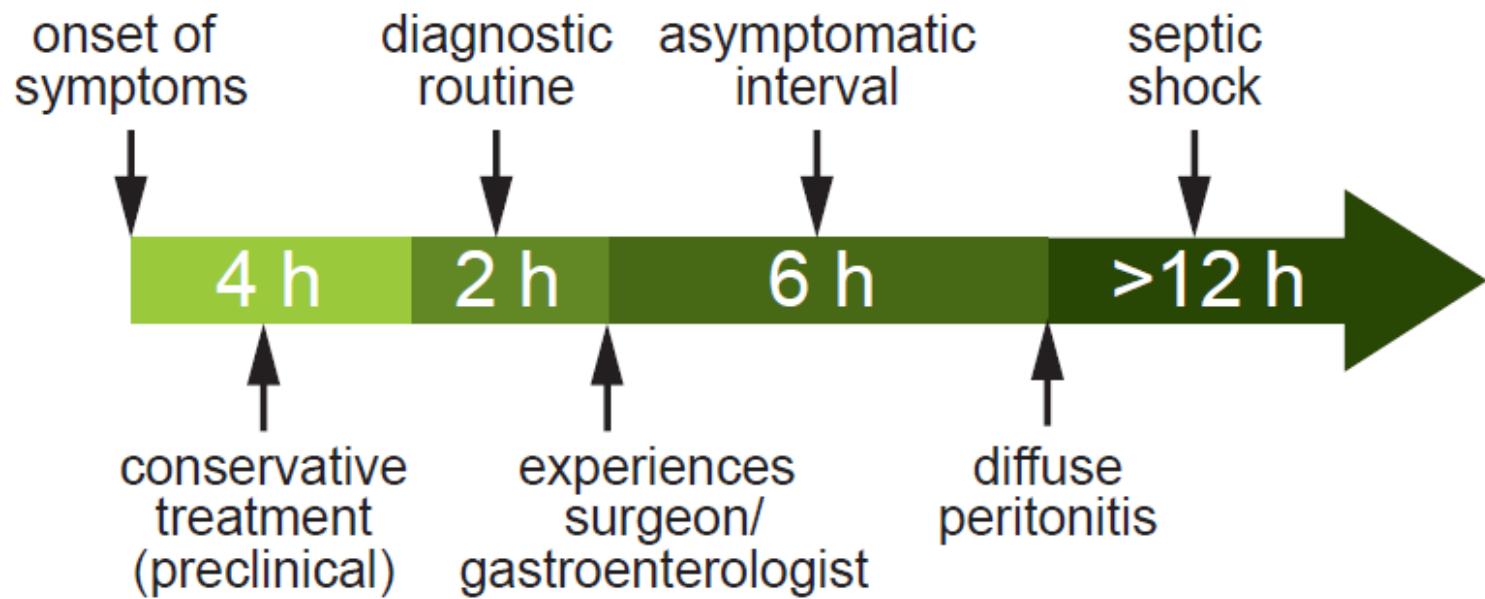
Location of the occlusion (central, peripheral)

Degree of ischemia (complete, reversible)

Extent of ischemia (extensive, localized)

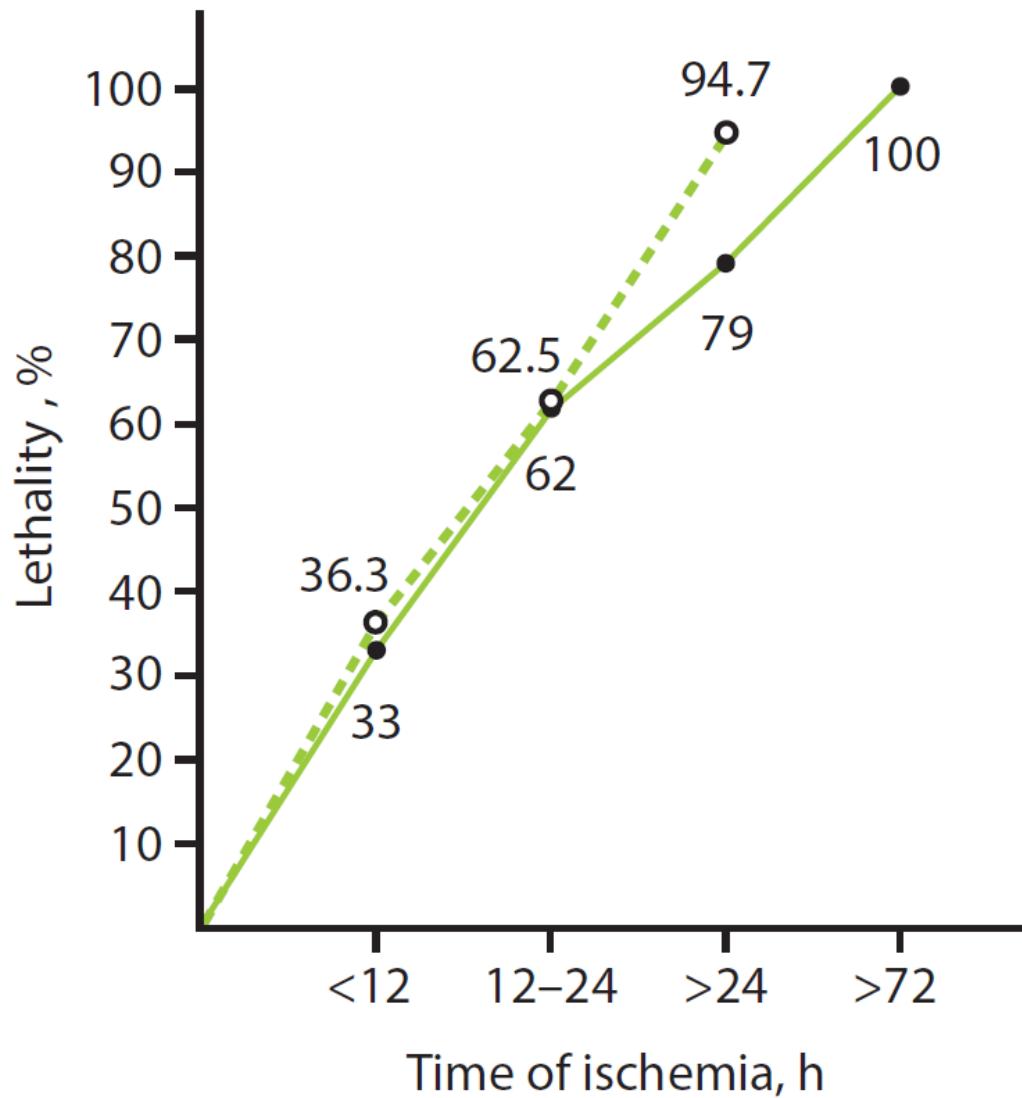
Affected intestinal segment (small or large intestine, combined)

NOMI = Non-occlusive mesenteric ischemia; SMA= superior mesenteric artery; IMA = inferior mesenteric artery.



**Fig. 1.** Clinical course and treatment of acute mesenteric ischemia (according to [30]).

**Fig. 2.** Correlation between lethality and duration of intestinal ischemia according to Paes et al. [6] (1990) (—) and Walter et al. [7] (1992) (----)



**L'ischemia intestinale: cosa non fare**

**Perdere tempo**



# Acute mesenteric ischemia: guidelines of the World Society of Emergency Surgery

Miklosh Bala<sup>1\*</sup>, Jeffry Kashuk<sup>2</sup>, Ernest E. Moore<sup>3</sup>, Yoram Kluger<sup>4</sup>, Walter Biffl<sup>5</sup>, Carlos Augusto Gomes<sup>6</sup>, Offir Ben-Ishay<sup>4</sup>, Chen Rubinstein<sup>7</sup>, Zsolt J. Balogh<sup>8</sup>, Ian Civil<sup>9</sup>, Federico Cocolini<sup>10</sup>, Ari Leppaniemi<sup>11</sup>, Andrew Peitzman<sup>12</sup>, Luca Ansaloni<sup>10</sup>, Michael Sugrue<sup>13</sup>, Massimo Sartelli<sup>14</sup>, Salomone Di Saverio<sup>15</sup>, Gustavo P. Fraga<sup>16</sup> and Fausto Catena<sup>17</sup>

**Table 1** Grading of recommendations

Grade of recommendation	Clarity of risk/benefit	Quality of supporting evidence	Implications
1A Strong recommendation, high-quality evidence	Benefits clearly outweigh risk and burdens, or vice versa	RCTs without important limitations or overwhelming evidence from observational studies	Strong recommendation, applies to most patients in most circumstances without reservation
1B Strong recommendation, moderate-quality evidence	Benefits clearly outweigh risk and burdens, or vice versa	RCTs with important limitations (inconsistent results, methodological flaws, indirect analyses, or imprecise conclusions) or exceptionally strong evidence from observational studies	Strong recommendation, applies to most patients in most circumstances without reservation
1C Strong recommendation, low-quality or very low-quality evidence	Benefits clearly outweigh risk and burdens, or vice versa	Observational studies or case series	Strong recommendation but subject to change when higher quality evidence becomes available
2A Weak recommendation, high-quality evidence	Benefits closely balanced with risks and burden	RCTs without important limitations or overwhelming evidence from observational studies	Weak recommendation, best action may differ depending on the patient, treatment circumstances, or social values
2B Weak recommendation, moderate-quality evidence	Benefits closely balanced with risks and burden	RCTs with important limitations (inconsistent results, methodological flaws, indirect or imprecise) or exceptionally strong evidence from observational studies	Weak recommendation, best action may differ depending on the patient, treatment circumstances, or social values
2C Weak recommendation, low-quality or very low-quality evidence	Uncertainty in the estimates of benefits, risks, and burden; benefits, risk, and burden may be closely balanced	Observational studies or case series	Very weak recommendation; alternative treatments may be equally reasonable and merit consideration

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 **Severe abdominal pain out of proportion to physical examination findings should be assumed to be AMI until disproven. (Recommendation 1B)**

 **Conventional plain X-ray films have limited diagnostic value in evaluating AMI, although signs of intestinal perforation may be seen. (Recommendation 1B)**

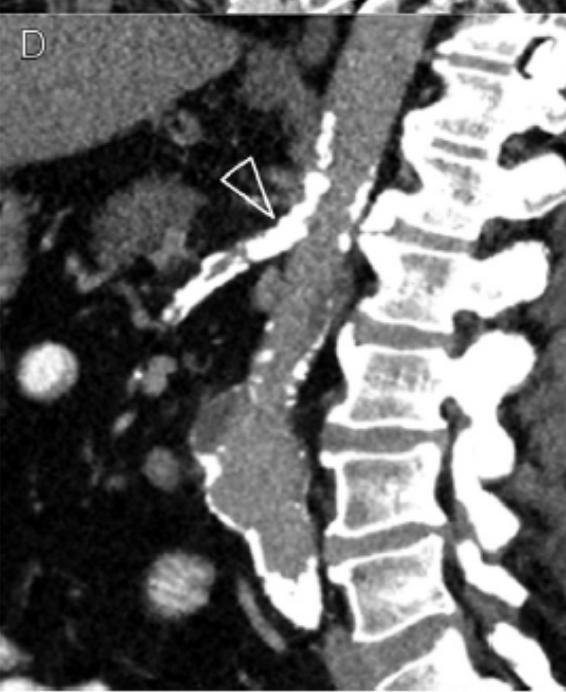
 **Computed tomography angiography (CTA) should be performed as soon as possible for any patient with suspicion for AMI. (Recommendation 1A)**

# Acute mesenteric ischemia: guidelines of the World Society of Emergency Surgery

Comprehensive biphasic CTA includes the following important steps:

- a) Pre-contrast scans to detect vascular calcification, hyper-attenuating intravascular thrombus and intramural hemorrhage.
- b) Arterial and venous phases to demonstrate thrombus in the mesenteric arteries and veins, abnormal enhancement of the bowel wall, and the presence of embolism or infarction of other organs.
- c) Multi-planar reconstructions (MPR) to assess the origin of the mesenteric arteries [35].

CTA should be performed despite the presence of renal failure, as the consequences of delayed diagnosis, missed diagnosis, or mismanagement are far more detrimental to the kidneys and the patient than exposure to the iodinated contrast agent. A recent study found that in 27 of 28 patients (96.4%) MDCT correctly diagnosed AMI (specificity of 97.9%) [16, 36].



**A: embolo occlusivo  
dell'AMS**

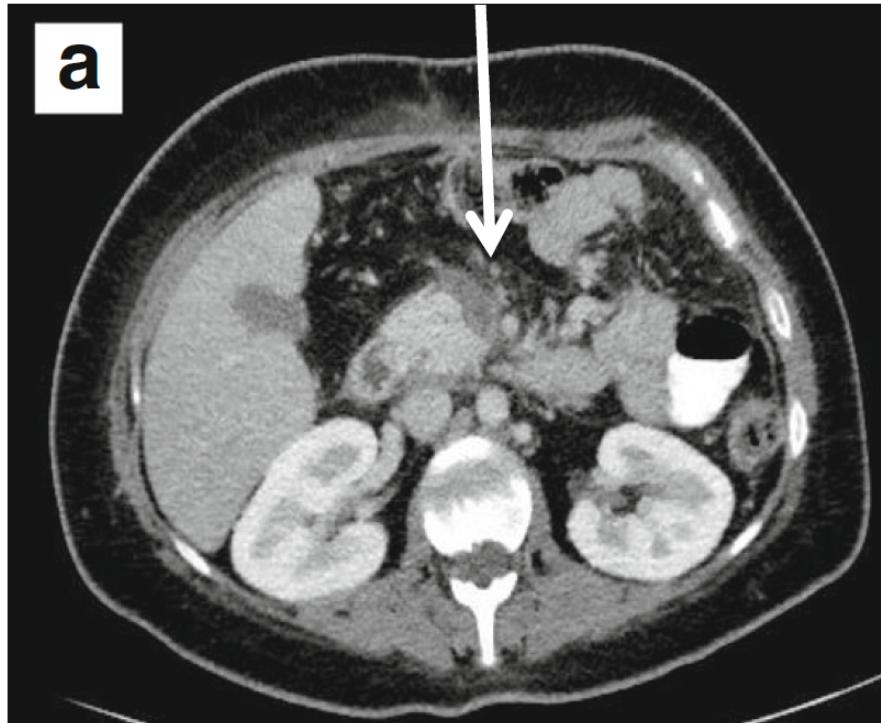
**B: Occlusione trombotica**

**C: Stenosi aterosclerotica  
dell'AMS del 99% con  
trombosi**

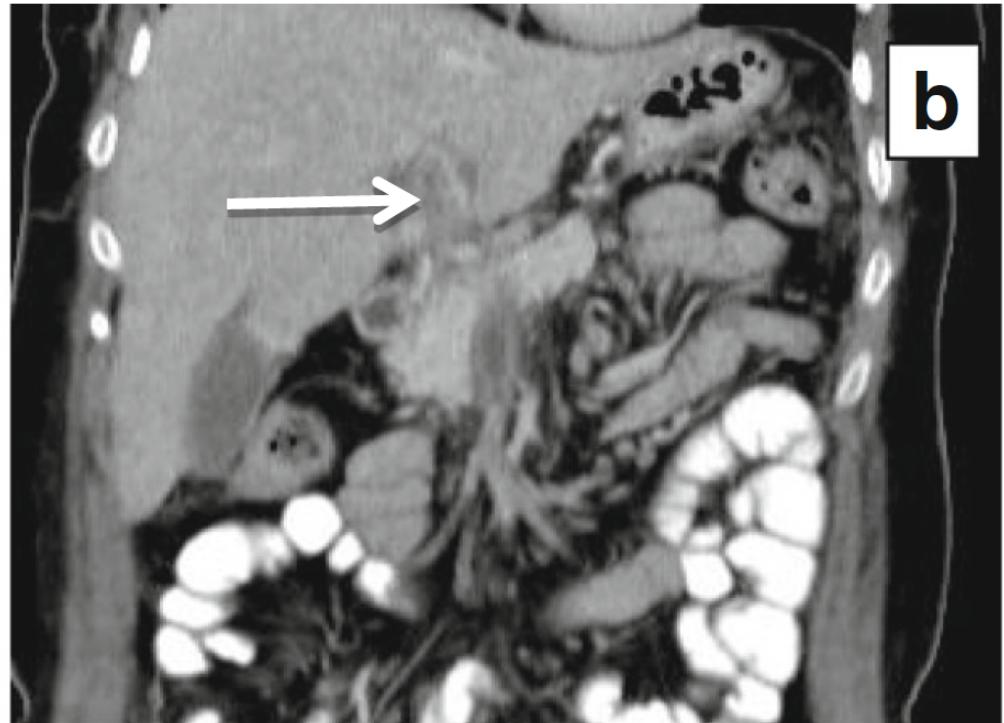
**D: Occlusione calcifica  
cronica**



**Fig. 1** Selected image from a CTA scan of a patient with acute mesenteric ischemia secondary to occluded SMA from an embolic source (arrow). 3D reconstruction demonstrates mid occlusion of SMA (arrow)

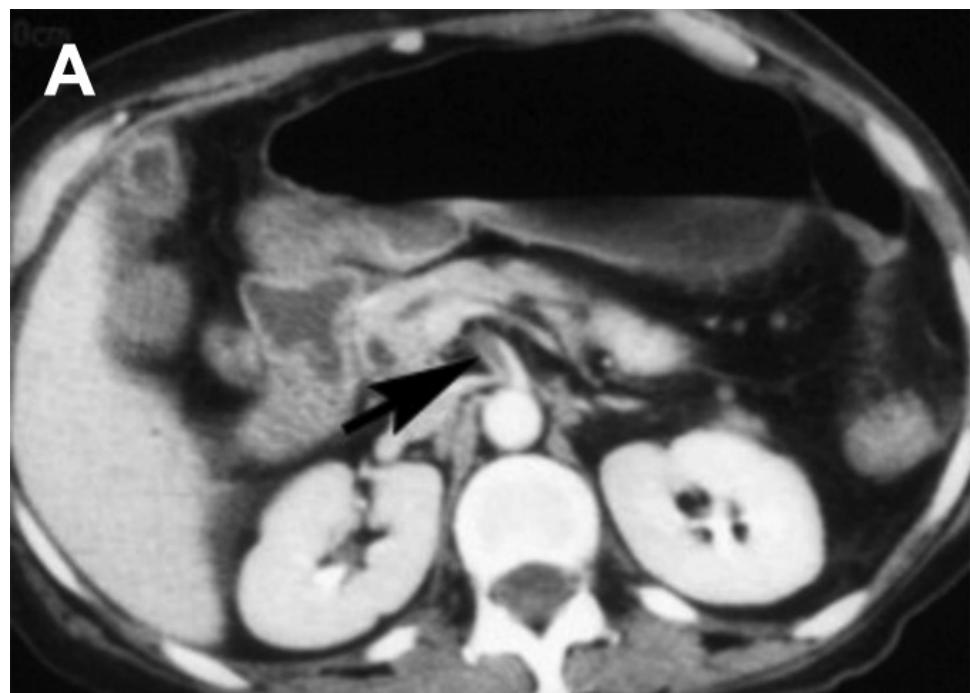
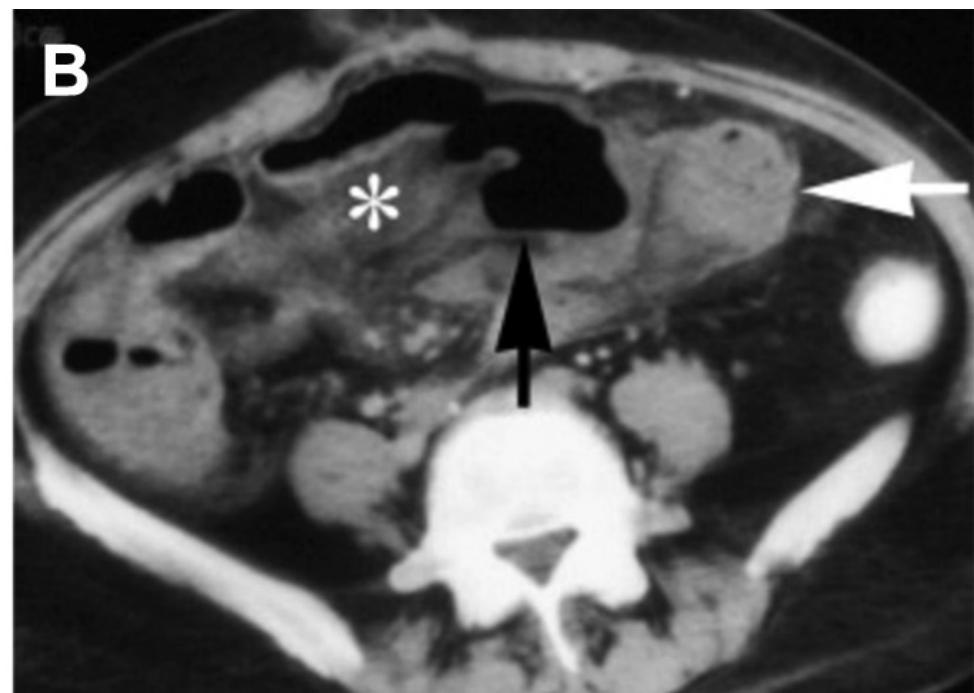


**a**

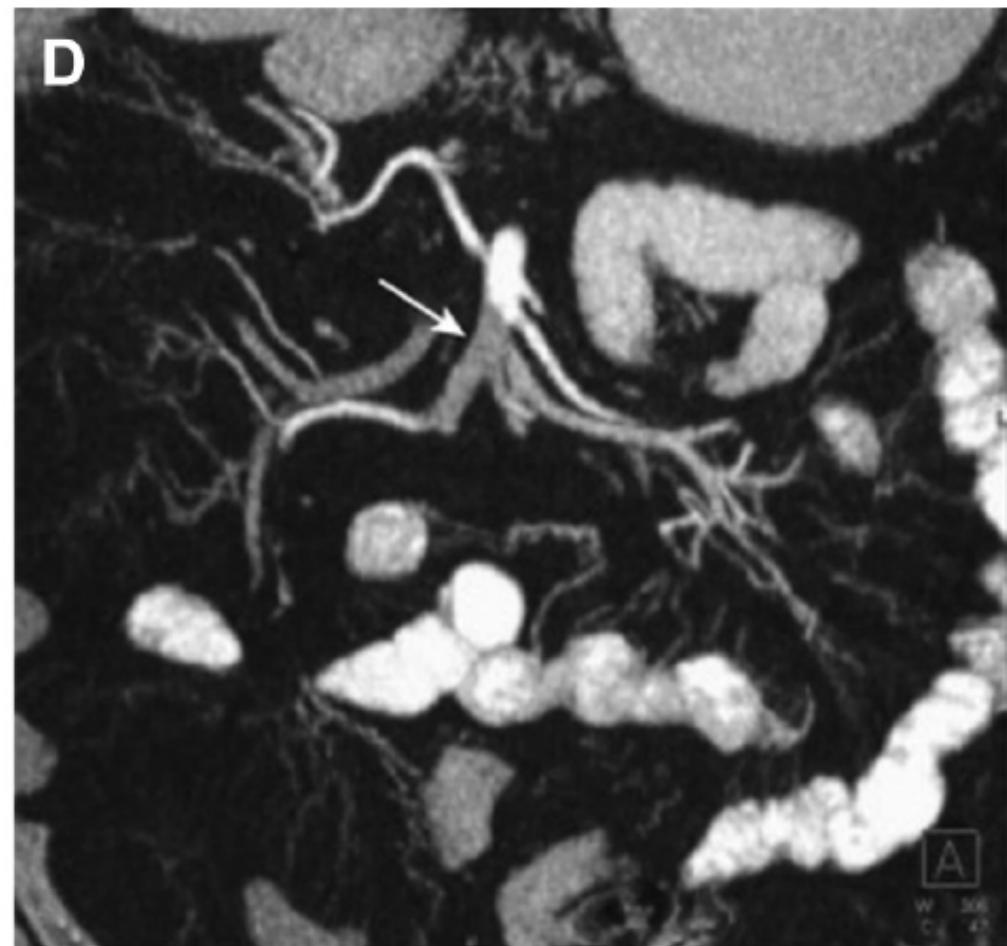


**b**

**Fig. 2** 30-year-old patient with acute superior mesenteric vein **a** and portal vein thrombosis **b** due to hypercoagulable state. No signs of bowel ischemia were noted, and the patient was treated successfully with long-term anticoagulation

**A****B**

**Fig. 1. (A, B)** – Acute mesenteric ischemia with small intestinal infarction in a 65-year-old woman who complained of severe, acute abdominal pain. (A, B) Intravenous contrast-enhanced computed tomography scan shows hypoattenuating thrombus occluding the origin of the superior mesenteric artery (arrow, A), mesenteric edema (asterisk, B), mural thickening (white arrow, B) and dilatation (black arrow, B) of the small intestine. (C, D)



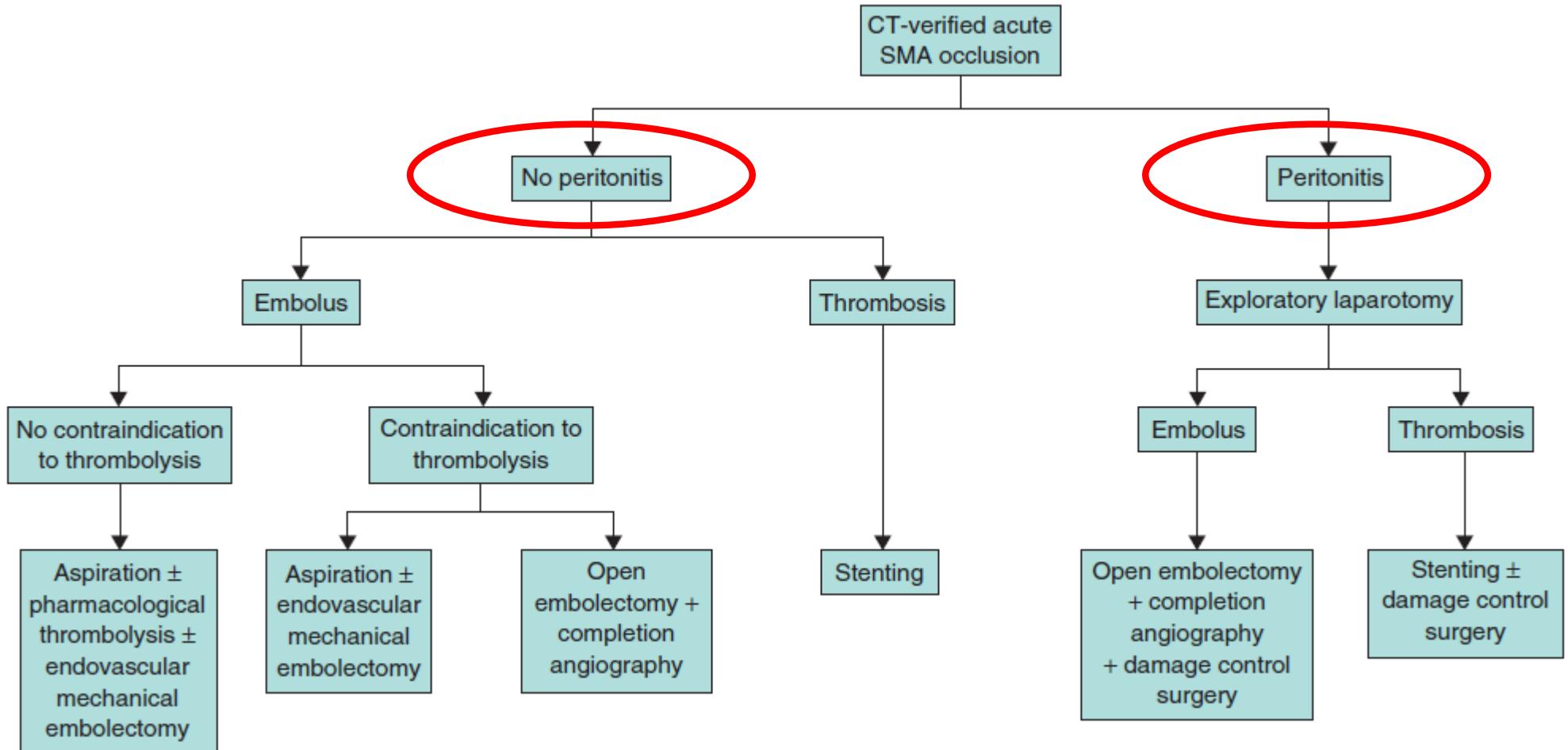
An 80-year-old man with acute abdominal pain. A sagittal multiplanar reconstruction (C) and coronal maximum intensity projection (D) show a large thrombus in the middle of the superior mesenteric artery (arrow); this was embolic, presumably from a cardiogenic source. Surgical embolectomy was performed. (*From [A, B] Levy AD. Mesenteric ischemia. Radiol Clin North Am 2007;45(3):593–9, x; and [C, D] Horton KM, Fishman EK. CT angiography of the mesenteric circulation. Radiol Clin North Am 2010;48:331–45, viii.*)

# Trattamento di base

**Table 3.** Basic care of acute mesenteric ischemia

Fluid resuscitation	e.g. Ringer's lactate 1–2 ml/kg/h
Anticoagulation	20,000 IE/heparin/24 h, PTT-controlled
Antibiotics	cephalosporin 3 × 1.5 g, metronidazole 3 × 500 mg
Analgesics	peridural catheter or opioids, e.g. up to 15 mg/h piritramide

# Algoritmo terapeutico



# Acute mesenteric ischemia: guidelines of the World Society of Emergency Surgery

## Trattamento chirurgico

**Prompt laparotomy should be done for patients with overt peritonitis. (Recommendation 1A)**

The goal of surgical intervention for AMI includes:

- 1) Re-establishment blood supply to the ischemic bowel.
- 2) Resection of all non-viable regions.
- 3) Preservation of all viable bowel.

Intestinal viability is the most important factor influencing outcome in patients with AMI. Non-viable intestine, if unrecognized, results in multi-system organ dysfunction and ultimately death. Prompt laparotomy allows for direct assessment of bowel viability.

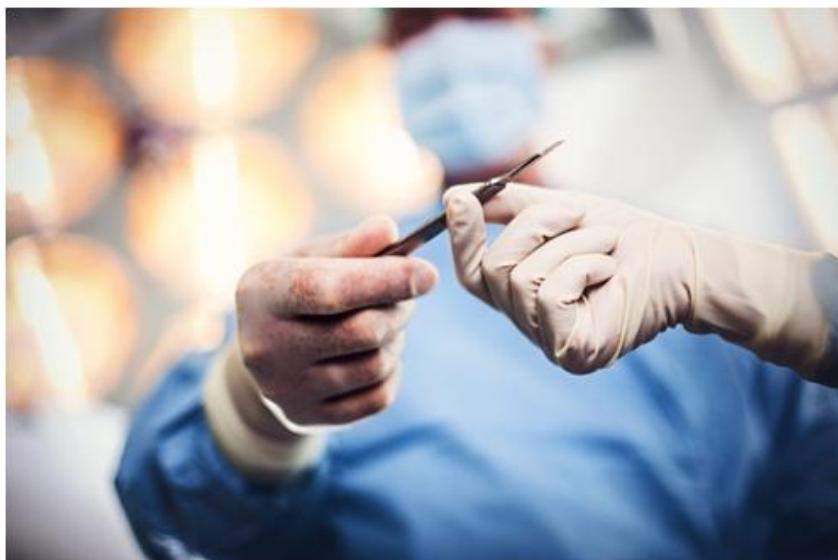
# Trattamento chirurgico: resezione intestinale

**Table 4.** Critical lengths of remaining bowel to avoid short bowel syndrome

100 cm for a permanent jejunostomy (loss of colon)

65 cm for a jejunocolic anastomosis (preservation of colon)

35 cm for a jejunoileal anastomosis with preservation of the ileocecal region

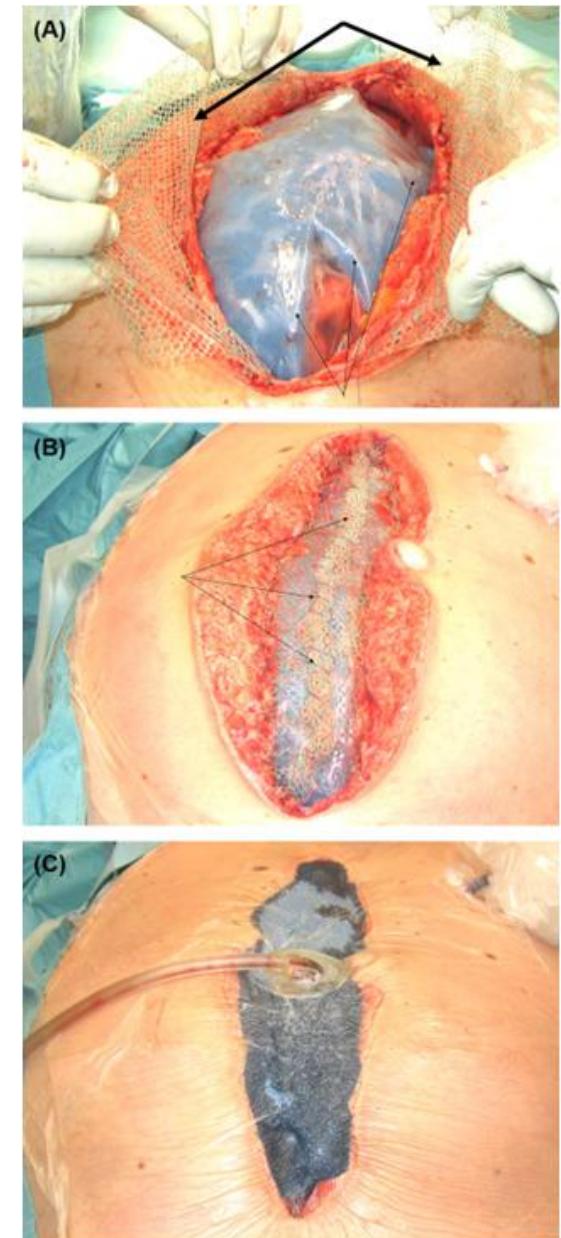


# Trattamento chirurgico: resezione intestinale

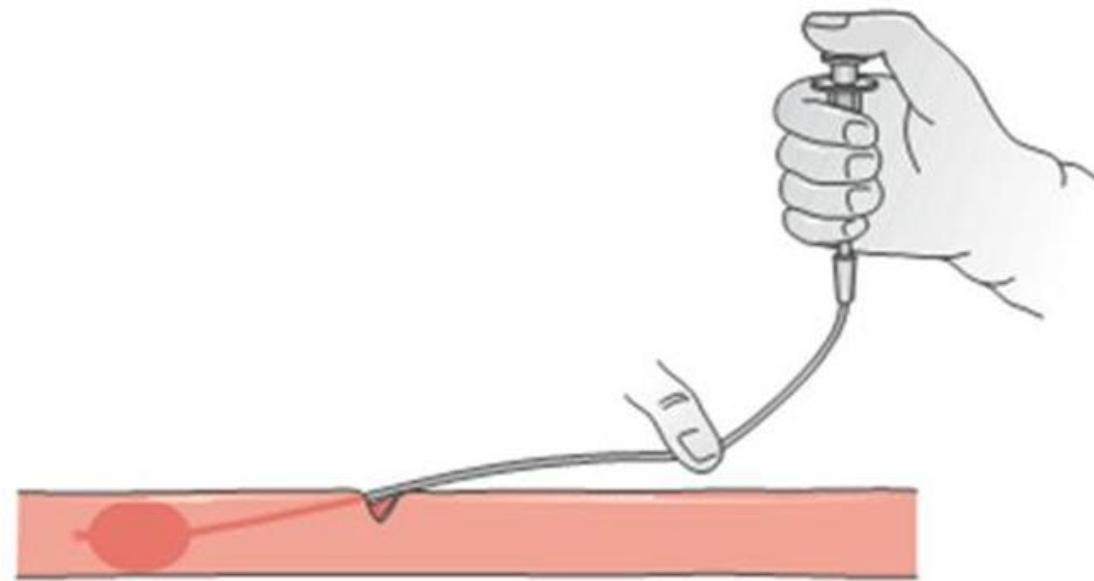


# Trattamento chirurgico: damage control surgery

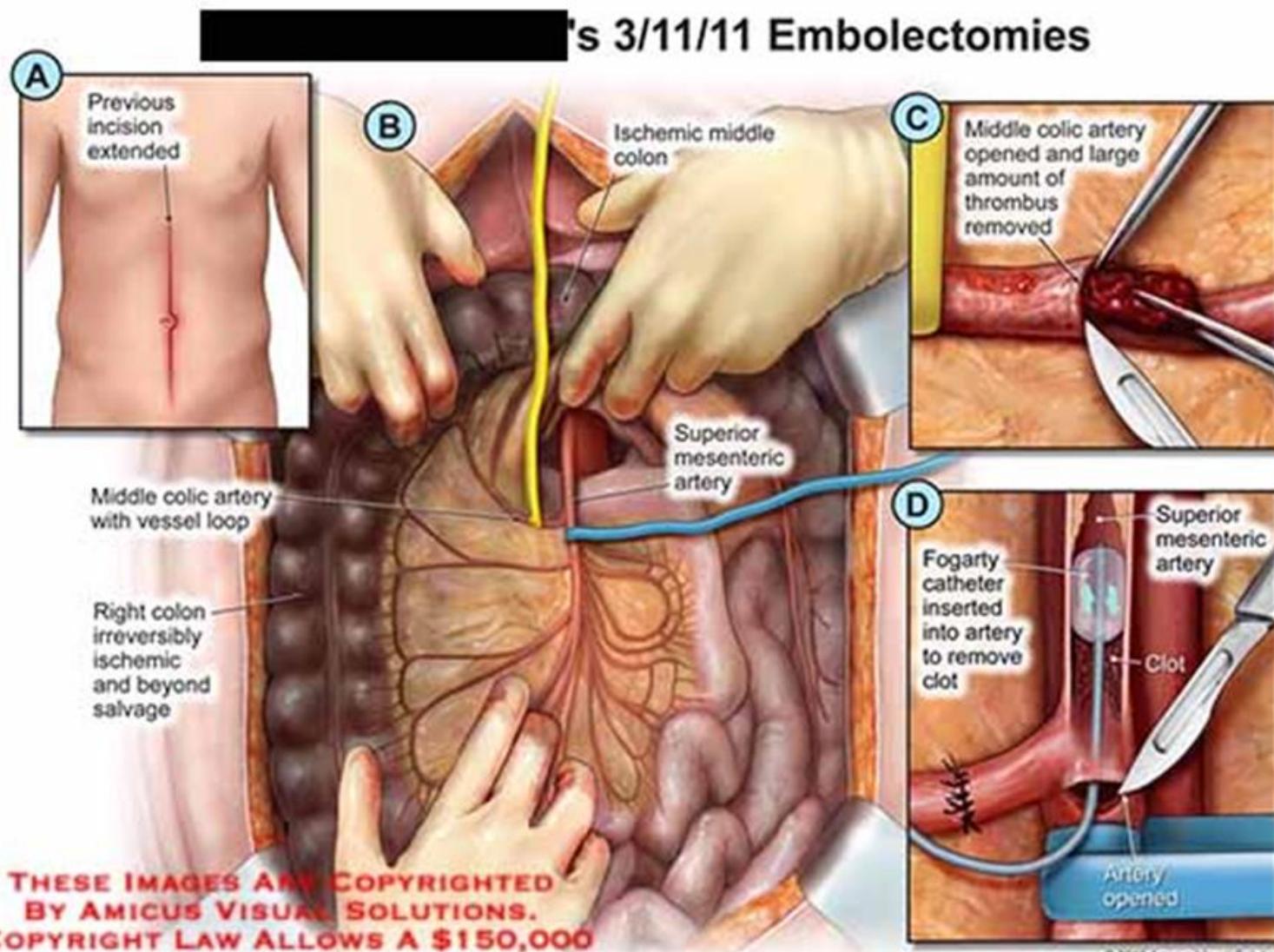
**Damage control surgery (DCS) is an important adjunct for patients who require intestinal resection due to the necessity to reassess bowel viability and in patients with refractory sepsis. Planned re-laparotomy is an essential part of AMI management. (Recommendation 1B)**



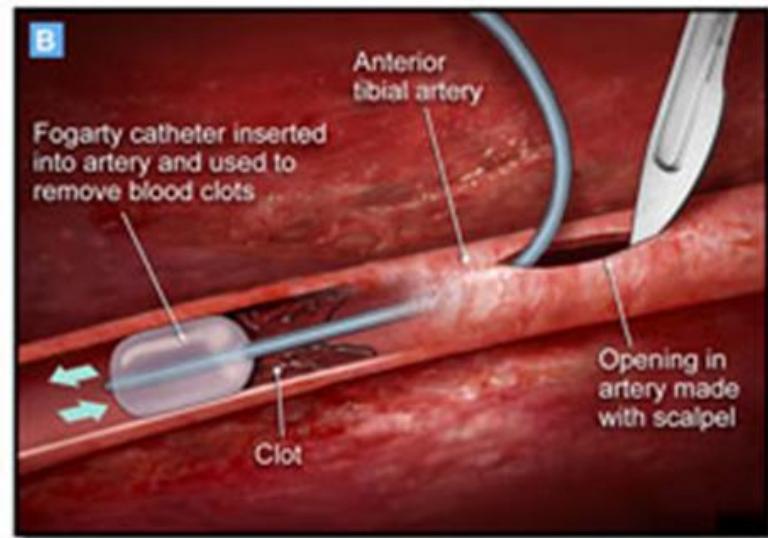
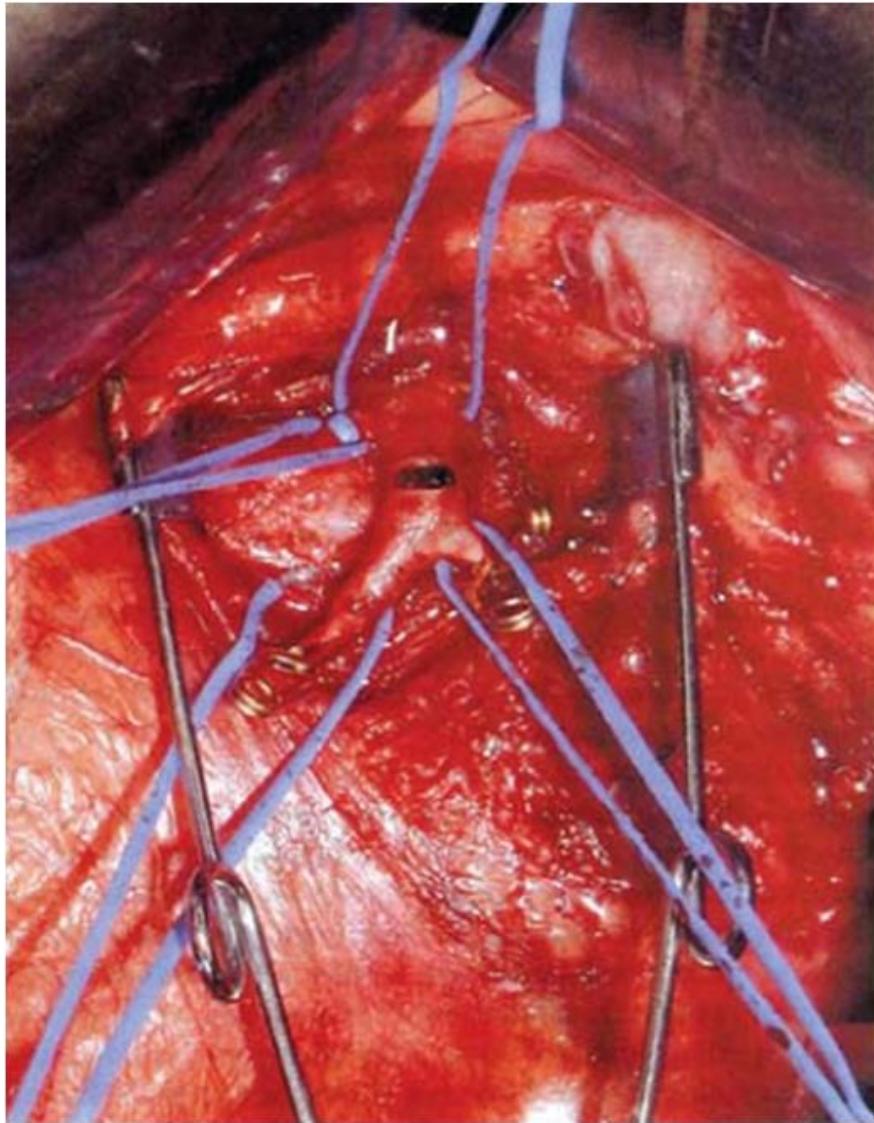
# Trattamento chirurgico: embolectomia

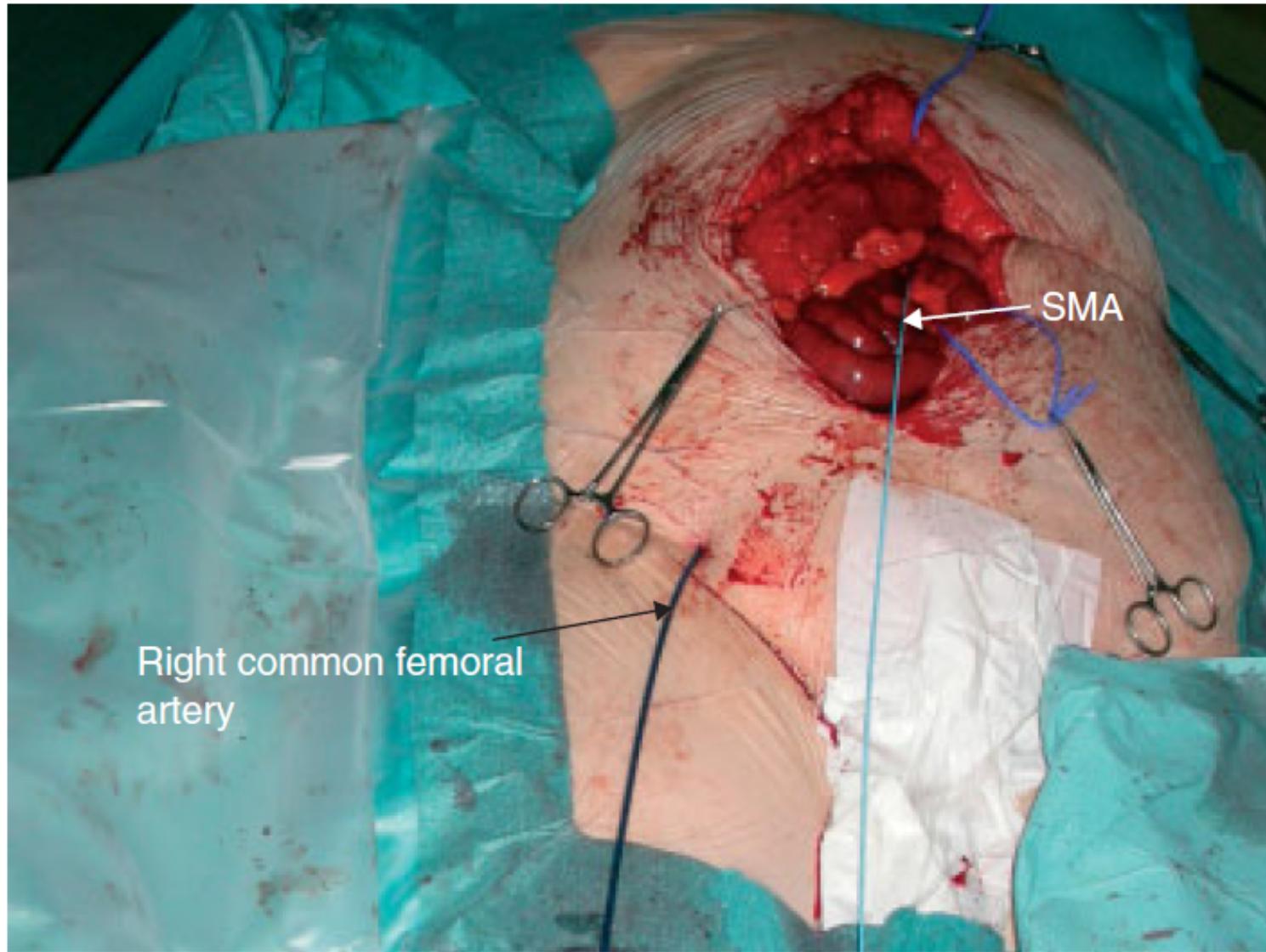


# Trattamento chirurgico: embolectomia



# Trattamento chirurgico: embolectomia

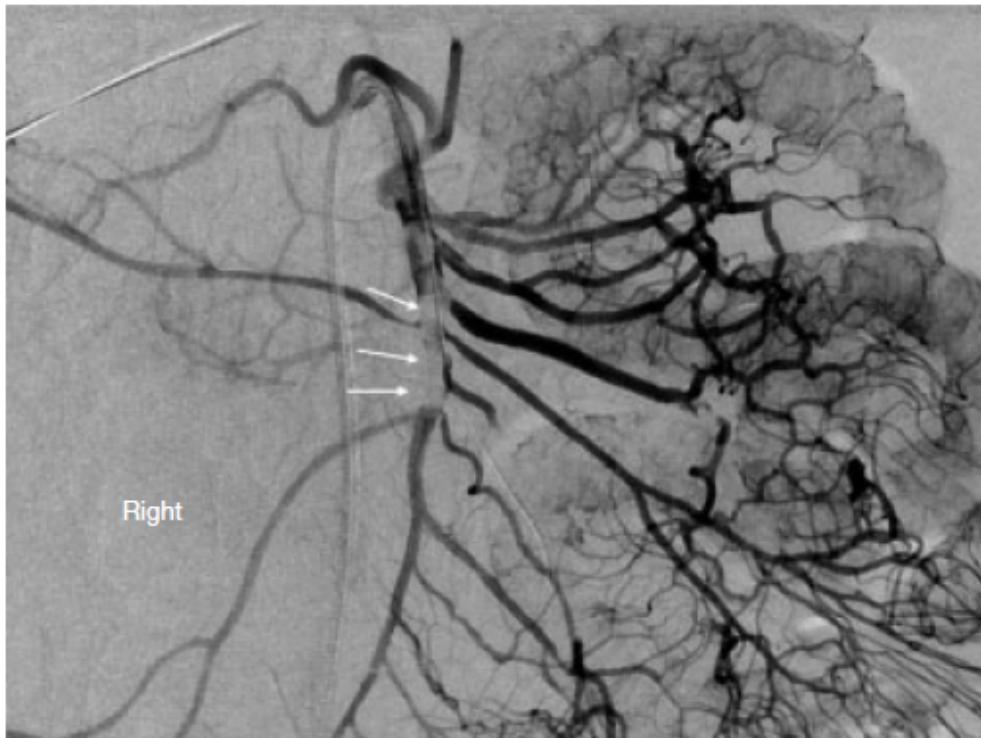




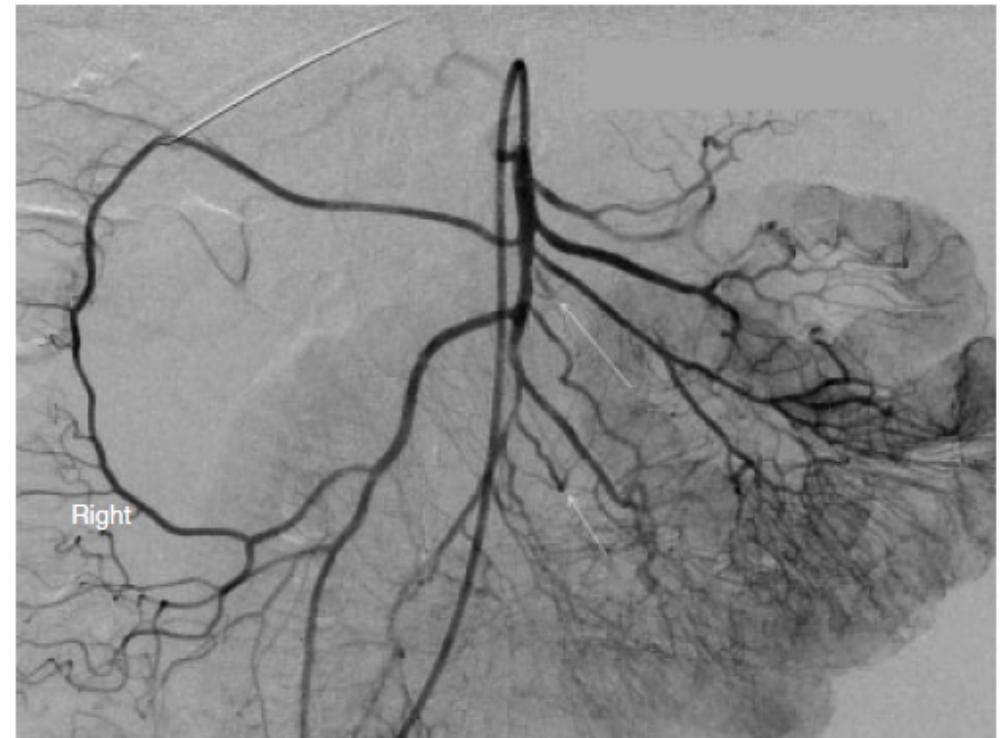
**Fig. 6** Through-and-through access. A guidewire runs inside a catheter (white arrow) from the distal superior mesenteric artery (SMA) through the inside of the introducer (black arrow) via the right common femoral artery

Acosta et al. *BJS*, 2014

# Trattamento endovascolare



**a** Embolus in SMA



**b** After local aspiration and nitroglycerine injection

Acosta et al. *BJS*, 2014

# Trattamento endovascolare



**Fig. 4.** **a, b** Implantation of 5 mm stents in the superior mesenteric artery und celiac artery. **c, d** Reocclusion of both stents 4 weeks later with acute mesenteric ischemia. **e** Open reconstruction with an aorto-ceeliac bypass and aortic reinsertion of the superior mesenteric artery. Outcome: recovery.

# Conclusioni

- Patologia a prognosi severa, mortalità elevatissima
- Sintomi aspecifici
- Esame diagnostico principale TC con mdc
- Trattamento multimodale (chirurgico, medico, endovascolare)
- Fondamentale una diagnosi precoce

