

**MANAGEMENT OF POSTOPERATIVE WOUND COMPLICATIONS OF  
COLORECTAL CÂNCER RESECTION: LITERATURE REVIEW**

*Ana Carolina Altafini Nastri (ana.carolinanastri@gmail.com)*

*Karina Maria De Santana Gonçalves (kmgoncalves@gmail.com)*

*Karine Akemi Tomigawa Okama (okama.kt@gmail.com)*

*Adriana Marques Da Silva (adriana.marques@hc.fm.usp.br)*

*Daniele Cristina Ferreira De Siqueira (daniele.siqueira@hc.fm.usp.br)*

**Objective:** To identify existing nursing interventions in scientific databases for the management of postoperative wound complications in colorectal cancer (CRC).

**Method:** This study consists of a systematic literature review with an electronic search for publications in the databases PubMed, LILACS, Web of Science, CINAHL, Cochrane, and Scopus, as well as free searches in SciELO, Revista Estima, and Google Scholar. Studies published within the last 10 years in Portuguese, Spanish, and English were included.

**Results:** A total of 1,273 articles were identified, and all international articles had versions available in either English or Spanish. After applying the exclusion criteria, 13 studies were selected for inclusion in the sample. The selected articles addressed complications related to surgical wounds in colorectal cancer resections, risk factors for these complications, as well as case reports, systematic reviews, dissertations, and consensus documents.

Of the selected articles, only three specifically addressed the treatment of complications resulting from colorectal surgical procedures: one focused on the prophylactic use of silver-impregnated dressings, one on the use of Negative Pressure Therapy (NPT) as treatment, and another on the use of NPT as a prophylactic measure. Only one study addressed wound dehiscence.

Eight articles were selected for their focus on surgical site infections, due to the relevance of this complication. These studies highlighted risk factors, prognosis, the infection itself, and the influence of surgical technique and site on the complication. It is worth noting that two of the articles focused on perineal surgical approaches.

Within this theme, when using the descriptor "nursing care," the number of relevant articles significantly decreased, reaching zero.

Conclusion: CRC is one of the most prevalent neoplasms in Brazil and worldwide. Surgical resection is a curative-intent treatment modality and may result in postoperative complications. In managing postoperative wound complications following colorectal tumor resection, the prophylactic use of silver-impregnated dressings as a primary covering reduces infection rates; however, the literature still lacks strong evidence. As for wound dehiscence, the use of NPT is indicated, though it also requires further study.

The importance of preventing Surgical Site Infection (SSI) through knowledge of risk factors was evident. However, there is a clear scarcity of publications specifically addressing the role of nursing in managing complications associated with complex surgical wounds, particularly in cases involving colorectal cancer resection. The management of these wounds may still be based primarily on clinical experience rather than scientific evidence. This study highlights the urgent need for further research and publications by the nursing field to enhance understanding, support evidence-based practice, and improve patient care.

Palavras-chave: keywords: colorectal surgery; colorectal neoplasms surgical wound; nursing care; postoperative complications.