ABSTRACT

Introduction:

Enterocutaneous fistula (ECF) is a result of complex intraperitoneal infection process. Even with modern and advanced surgical suturing techniques, staplers, fewer antibiotic therapy and modern investigations, mortality of the disease remains up to 50%. Though there is a reduction in the number of enterocutaneous fistulas post-operatively by percentage, once the fistula develops, morbidity and mortality are very high. The serious sequences lead us to study the disease at our set up and compare the results with international works.

Methodology:

Patients having enterocutaneous fistulas and admitted in Government Coimbatore Medical College Hospital were observed and data were collected including details of patient's history, clinical findings, pathological and microbiological findings, conservative management, operative management, complications, and outcome.

Results:

Observations and analysis of the data of present series was very interesting and important aspects were compared with standard series. Mortality was 27% in this study, mostly caused by sepsis, malnutrition
and fluid and electrolyte abnormalities. 8 patients had spontaneous closure and 8 patients needed surgical closure.

**Conclusion:**

Patients can be helped to recover from this dreaded disease by early diagnosis and management of malnutrition, fluid and electrolyte imbalance, infection process and simultaneous medical diseases with definitive procedure following stabilisation of the patient.

**Keywords : Enterocutaneous fistula, post-operative complication.**