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Rapid Communication

Rectum Emptying: Quantitative Aspect

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A procedure for daily rectum emptying in aged subjects was recently proposed [1]. The quantitative aspect of such a procedure remained, however, to be considered. The present report provides such information. A male subject, 81 years old, estimated over 10 successive days the amount of collected faeces, as judged from the difference in body weight before and immediately after rectum emptying. The precision of each individual body weight measurement was close to 50g, either one or two successive measurements being performed before and/or after rectum emptying. The initial body weight before rectum emptying ranged between the extreme values of 60.00 and 60.95 Kg. incidentally, the optimal body weight for this 171cm tall subject would amount to 65.75Kg. Indeed, according to a previously proposed criterion, the optimal body weight (BW, expressed in Kg) in male subjects, as a function of body height (BH, expressed in cm), obeys the following equation: $BW = 50 + [0.75 \times (BH - 150)]$. The above mentioned difference in body weight before and after rectum emptying averaged 143 ± 7 g (mean \pm SEM; $n = 10$). The latter value is close to the routine estimation of daily defecation, i.e. 135g [2]. Hence, the proposed procedure for rectal emptying in aged subjects indeed achieves a normal result.

References

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2. Keele CA, Neil E. Samson Wright's applied physiology. Oxford University Press. 1951: 391.