

The Approach to the Acute Abdomen

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Approach to the *Acute Abdomen*

Acute abdomen represents the rapid onset of severe symptoms that may indicate potentially life-threatening intra-abdominal pathology that requires urgent surgical intervention

Approach to the *Acute Abdomen*

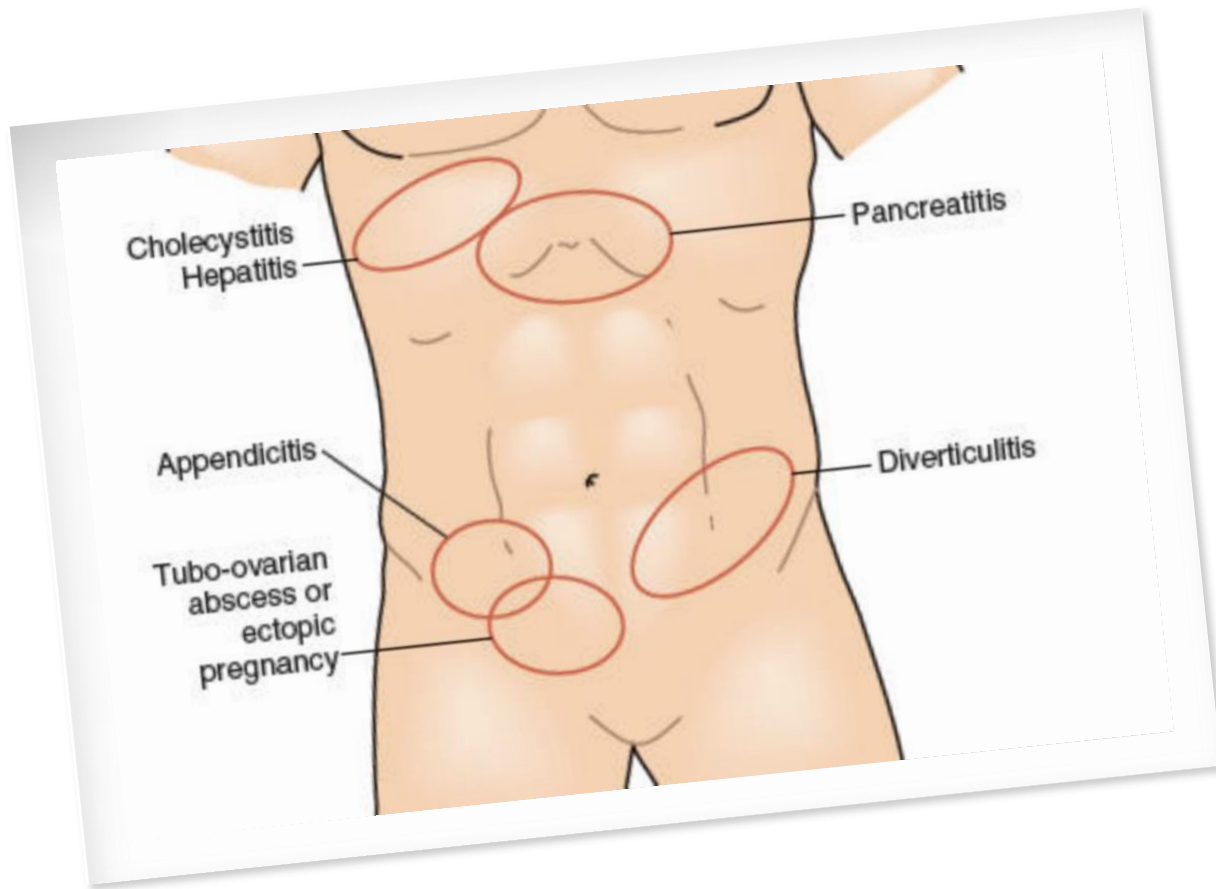
- Anatomy
- Physiology

Approach to the **Acute Abdomen**

- History
 - Detailed pain history
 - Complete systematic review
 - Past history
- Physical Examination
 - Abdominal exam
 - Digital rectal exam
 - Special signs

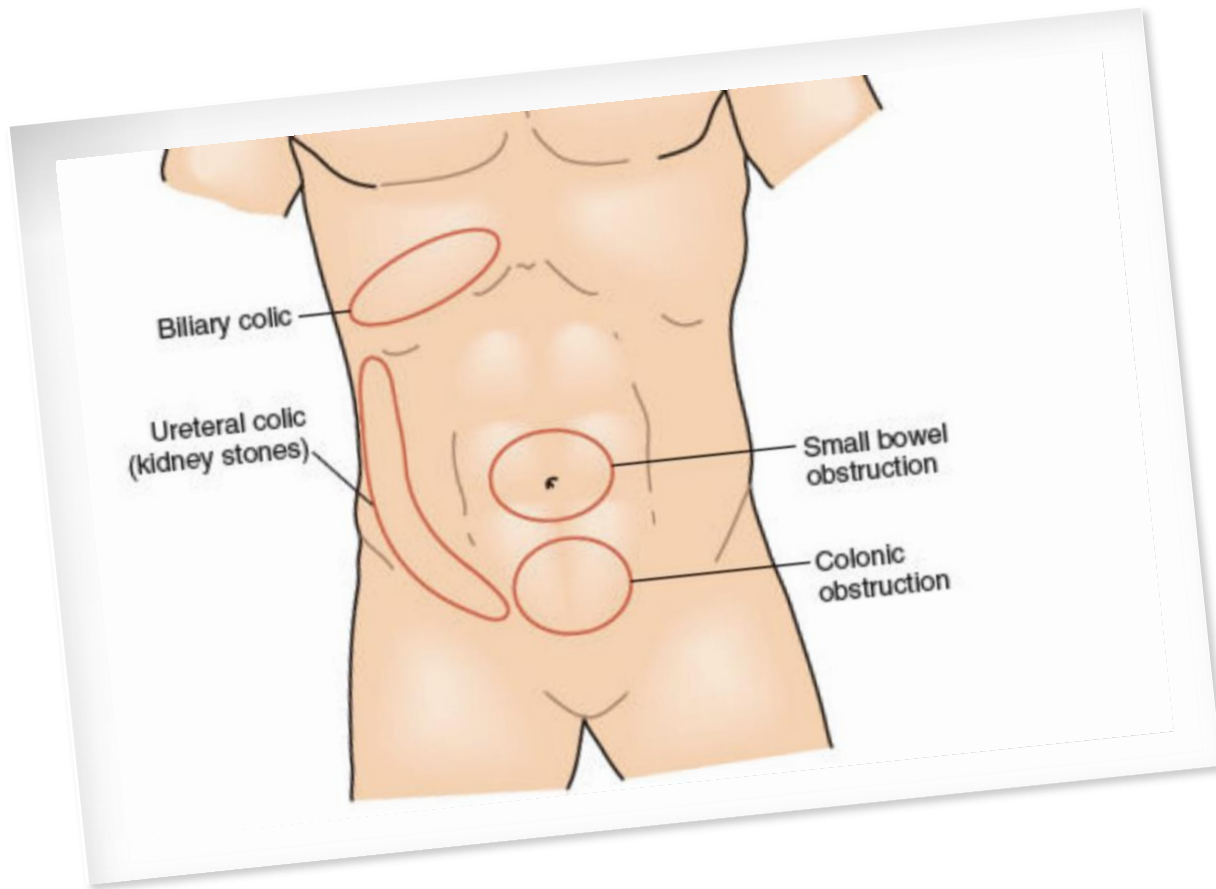
Approach to the **Acute Abdomen**

- Presentation
 - Abdominal pain is usually a feature
 - Pain may be located in any quadrant of the abdomen and may be intermittent, sharp or dull, achy or piercing; it may radiate from a focal site and there may be associated symptoms such as nausea and vomiting.



Character of the pain

Gradual, Progressive Pain

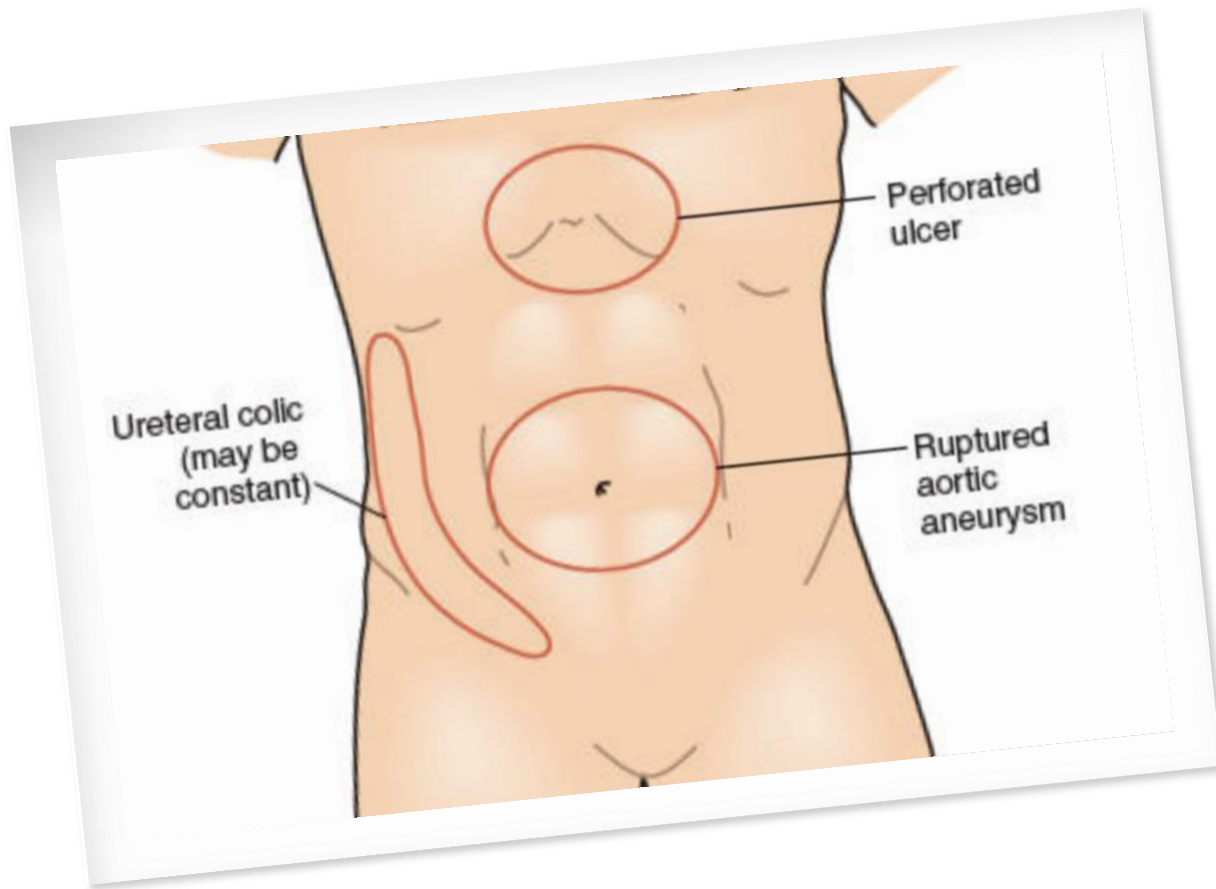


Character of the pain

Colicky, Crampy Intermittent Pain

Approach to the **Acute Abdomen**

- Presentation
 - Abdominal pain is usually a feature
 - Immediate assessment should focus on distinguishing those cases of true acute abdomen that require urgent surgical intervention from those that do not, which can initially be managed conservatively



Character of the pain

Sudden, Severe Pain

Approach to the **Acute Abdomen**

- Presentation
 - Abdominal pain is usually a feature
 - Pain-free acute abdomen can occur, particularly in older people, in children, in the immunocompromised, and in the last trimester of pregnancy.

Approach to the **Acute Abdomen**

- Diagnosis
 - An acute abdomen is diagnosed by a combination of history, physical examination, radiography, and laboratory results.



Approach to the **Acute Abdomen**

- Diagnosis
 - An acute abdomen is diagnosed by a combination of history, physical examination, radiography, and laboratory results.
 - CT Scan
 - Experienced Surgeon
 - Diagnostic Laparoscopy

Approach to the **Acute Abdomen**

- Management
 - Pain Management.
 - Surgical Intervention
 - “Conservative” / “Non operative Management” of Acute Abdomen
 - Elderly patients
 - ICU patients
 - Pregnancy
 - Immunosuppressed patients

Thank You!