

Clinical Manifestations of Meckel Diverticulum

Abdominal Pain

Similar to appendicitis

May be vague and recurrent

Bloody Stools*

Painless

Bright or dark red with mucus (currant jelly-like stool)

In infants, rectal bleeding sometimes accompanied by pain

Sometimes

Severe anemia

Shock

*Often a presenting sign.

Therapeutic Management

The standard treatment for symptomatic Meckel diverticulum is surgical removal. When severe hemorrhage increases the surgical risk, interventions to correct hypovolemic shock (such as blood replacement, IV fluids, and oxygen) may be necessary. Antibiotics may be used preoperatively to control infection. If intestinal obstruction has occurred, appropriate preoperative measures are used to reverse electrolyte imbalances and prevent abdominal distention.

Prognosis

If symptomatic Meckel diverticulum is diagnosed and treated early, full recovery is likely. The mortality rate of untreated Meckel