

Section: **Adult Medical**  
Subject: **ACUTE ABDOMEN**  
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1. Basic ALS Treatment
2. ALS Transport Criteria:
  - a. All patients with signs and symptoms of acute abdomen or abnormal vital signs
  - b. Call Medic-1 for pain control orders if appropriate.
3. QA Points:
  - a. The primary goal of treating abdominal pain in the pre-hospital setting is to identify life-threatening conditions and alleviate suffering.
  - b. Abdominal pain in the elderly is a complex condition that more often than not requires a hospitalization to determine the presence or absence of an acute medical emergency.
  - c. Flank pain in the elderly may be the only presenting sign or symptom of an abdominal aortic aneurysm.
  - d. When dealing with lower abdominal pain in females, a good rule of thumb is the following set of assumptions:
    - i. Assume all women 12 to 55 years of age are pregnant.
    - ii. Assume all pregnant women have an ectopic pregnancy until proven otherwise.