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Abdominal pain in adults: Symptom Checker

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Abdominal pain

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Abdominal pain

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**MCV Related tag(s)**

**Primary Location**

Diseases and Conditions

**Tease**

Abdominal pain can indicate a wide variety of medical conditions. Identify possible common causes based on symptoms you're experiencing.

**Abstract**

Find possible causes of abdominal pain in adults. See our Symptom Checker.

**Benefit Summary**

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Adult

**ENTER IN FARCRY:**

**When to get medical help**

Seek emergency care if: (1, 2)

The pain is related to an accident or injury

You also experience pain in your chest, neck or shoulder

The pain is accompanied by shortness of breath or dizziness

You vomit blood

Your stool is black or bloody

You find blood in your urine

Your abdomen is swollen and tender

You experience a high fever

You experience persistent nausea or vomiting

**Self-care strategies** (1, 2)

The following self-care tips may be beneficial for mild abdominal pain, but you should still see your doctor for a prompt diagnosis and appropriate treatment:

Avoid foods that you suspect may cause or worsen symptoms, including alcohol.

Take an over-the-counter antacid as directed on the label.

Take an over-the-counter anti-diarrhea medication as directed on the label if your abdominal pain is accompanied by diarrhea.

Drink plenty of water if your abdominal pain is accompanied by diarrhea or constipation.

**More Information**

Abdominal pain MY00390

**END OF FARCRY TEXT**

Find possible causes of abdominal pain based on specific factors. Check one or more factors on this page that apply to your symptom. (1; 2; 3, p. 10-13; 4, p. 1-17)

**Pain is**

Acute, or began suddenly

Burning

Chronic, or ongoing

Crampy

Dull

Gnawing

Intense

Intermittent or episodic

Progressive, or worsens over time

Sharp

Steady

**Pain located in**

Abdomen but radiates to other parts of the body

Lower abdomen

Middle abdomen

One or both sides

Upper abdomen

**Triggered or worsened by**

Coughing or other jarring movements

Drinking alcohol

Eating certain foods

Menstrual cycle **[female]**

Stress

**Relieved by**

Antacids

Avoiding certain foods

Changing position

Drinking more water

Eating certain foods

Eating more fiber

**Accompanied by**

Abdominal swelling

Black or bloody stools

Constipation

Diarrhea

Fever

Inability to move bowels in spite of urge

Nausea or vomiting

Passing gas

Pulsing sensation near the navel

Rash

Stomach growling or rumbling

Unintended weight loss

**Possible causes**

These diseases and conditions match at least one of the factors you selected. Those with the most matches are listed first.

DS01194 Abdominal aortic aneurysm (4, 34)

Pain located in abdomen but radiates to other parts of the body

Pain located in middle abdomen

Accompanied by pulsing sensation near the navel

DS00274 Appendicitis (4, p. 14; 5; 33)

Pain is acute, or began suddenly

Pain is crampy

Pain is dull

Pain is intense

Pain is sharp

Pain is steady

Pain located in lower abdomen

Pain located in middle abdomen

Pain located in one or both sides

Triggered or worsened by coughing or other jarring movements

Accompanied by abdominal swelling

Accompanied by constipation

Accompanied by diarrhea

Accompanied by fever

Accompanied by nausea or vomiting

DS00319 Celiac disease (7; 8, p. 1796; 33)

Pain is chronic, or ongoing

Pain is crampy

Triggered or worsened by eating certain foods

Relieved by avoiding certain foods

Accompanied by abdominal swelling

Accompanied by diarrhea

Accompanied by passing gas

Accompanied by rash

Accompanied by stomach growling or rumbling

Accompanied by unintended weight loss

DS01153 Cholecystitis (4, p. 9, 14; 9; 33)

Pain is crampy

Pain is intense

Pain is intermittent or episodic

Pain is steady

Pain located in abdomen but radiates to other parts of the body

Pain located in upper abdomen

Accompanied by fever

Accompanied by nausea or vomiting

DS00035 Colon cancer (10, 33)

Pain is chronic, or ongoing

Pain is crampy

Pain is progressive, or worsens over time

Accompanied by black or bloody stools

Accompanied by constipation

Accompanied by diarrhea

Accompanied by unintended weight loss

DS00063 Constipation (11, 33)

Pain is acute, or began suddenly

Pain is chronic, or ongoing

Pain is crampy

Pain is intermittent or episodic

Relieved by eating more fiber

Relieved by drinking more water

Accompanied by constipation

DS00104 Crohn's disease (4, p. 4; 12; 33)

Pain is chronic, or ongoing

Pain is crampy

Pain is dull

Pain is intermittent or episodic

Accompanied by abdominal swelling

Accompanied by black or bloody stools

Accompanied by constipation

Accompanied by diarrhea

Accompanied by fever

Accompanied by nausea or vomiting

Accompanied by rash

Accompanied by unintended weight loss

DS00292 Diarrhea (13)

Pain is crampy

Accompanied by diarrhea

Accompanied by fever

DS00070 Diverticulitis (3, p. 12; 4, p. 14; 14; 33)

Pain is acute, or began suddenly

Pain is crampy

Pain is intermittent or episodic

Pain is sharp

Pain is steady

Triggered or worsened by coughing or other jarring movements

Accompanied by constipation

Accompanied by diarrhea

Accompanied by fever

Accompanied by nausea or vomiting

DS00289 Endometriosis (15, 33)

Pain is crampy

Pain is intermittent or episodic

Pain located in lower abdomen

Triggered or worsened by menstrual cycle [female]

DS00981 Food poisoning (16, 33)

Pain is acute, or began suddenly

Pain is crampy

Triggered or worsened by eating certain foods

Accompanied by abdominal swelling

Accompanied by diarrhea

Accompanied by fever

Accompanied by nausea or vomiting

DS00165 Gallstones (17, 33)

Pain is intense

Pain is intermittent or episodic

Pain is steady

Pain located in abdomen but radiates to other parts of the body

Pain located in middle abdomen

Pain located in upper abdomen

Triggered or worsened by eating certain foods

Accompanied by fever

Accompanied by nausea or vomiting

DS00080 Gas and gas pains (18, 33)

Pain is acute, or began suddenly

Pain is chronic, or ongoing

Pain is crampy

Pain is sharp

Triggered or worsened by eating certain foods

Relieved by avoiding certain foods

Accompanied by passing gas

DS00488 Gastritis (4, p. 4, 9, 14; 19; 33)

Pain is burning

Pain is chronic, or ongoing

Pain is gnawing

Pain is intermittent or episodic

Pain is steady

Pain located in middle abdomen

Pain located in upper abdomen

Triggered or worsened by drinking alcohol

Triggered or worsened by eating certain foods

Accompanied by abdominal swelling

Accompanied by nausea or vomiting

Accompanied by unintended weight loss

DS00823 Intestinal obstruction (4, p. 4, 11, 14; 20)

Pain is acute, or began suddenly

Pain is crampy

Pain is intermittent or episodic

Pain is steady

Accompanied by abdominal swelling

Accompanied by constipation

Accompanied by diarrhea

Accompanied by nausea or vomiting

DS00106 Irritable bowel syndrome (4, p. 14; 21; 33)

Pain is chronic, or ongoing

Pain is crampy

Pain is intermittent or episodic

Pain is steady

Triggered or worsened by eating certain foods

Triggered or worsened by stress

Accompanied by abdominal swelling

Accompanied by constipation

Accompanied by diarrhea

Accompanied by passing gas

DS00282 Kidney stones (22, 33)

Pain is acute, or began suddenly

Pain is intense

Pain located in abdomen but radiates to other parts of the body

Pain located in one or both sides

Accompanied by nausea or vomiting

DS00530 Lactose intolerance (23, 24, 33)

Pain is chronic, or ongoing

Pain is crampy

Triggered or worsened by eating certain foods

Relieved by avoiding certain foods

Accompanied by diarrhea

Accompanied by nausea or vomiting

Accompanied by passing gas

Accompanied by stomach growling or rumbling

DS00506 Menstrual cramps (25, 33) [female]

Pain is crampy

Pain is dull

Pain is intermittent or episodic

Pain located in abdomen but radiates to other parts of the body

Triggered or worsened by menstrual cycle [female]

DS00524 Nonulcer stomach pain (26)

Pain is burning

Pain is gnawing

Pain located in upper abdomen

Triggered or worsened by stress

Relieved by antacids

Relieved by eating certain foods

Accompanied by nausea or vomiting

Accompanied by passing gas

DS00371 Pancreatitis (4, p. 14; 27; 33)

Pain is acute, or began suddenly

Pain is intense

Pain is sharp

Pain is steady

Pain located in abdomen but radiates to other parts of the body

Pain located in upper abdomen

Triggered or worsened by eating certain foods

Relieved by changing position

Accompanied by nausea or vomiting

Accompanied by unintended weight loss

DS00242 Peptic ulcer (4, p. 4, 9, 14; 28; 33)

Pain is burning

Pain is chronic, or ongoing

Pain is gnawing

Pain is intermittent or episodic

Pain is progressive, or worsens over time

Pain located in abdomen but radiates to other parts of the body

Triggered or worsened by drinking alcohol

Triggered or worsened by eating certain foods

Triggered or worsened by stress

Relieved by antacids

Relieved by eating certain foods

Accompanied by black or bloody stools

Accompanied by nausea or vomiting

Accompanied by unintended weight loss

DS00098 Shingles (29, 33)

Pain is burning

Pain is acute, or began suddenly

Pain is intense

Pain is steady

Accompanied by rash

DS00598 Ulcerative colitis (30, 31, 33)

Pain is chronic, or ongoing

Pain is crampy

Pain is intermittent or episodic

Accompanied by black or bloody stools

Accompanied by diarrhea

Accompanied by inability to move bowels in spite of urge

Accompanied by rash

Accompanied by unintended weight loss

DS00085 Viral gastroenteritis (stomach flu) (4, p. 4, 14; 32; 33)

Pain is acute, or began suddenly

Pain is crampy

Triggered or worsened by eating certain foods

Accompanied by diarrhea

Accompanied by fever

Accompanied by nausea or vomiting

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