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Abdominal Pain

Also called: Bellyache

Your abdomen extends from below your chest to your groin. Some people call it the stomach, but your abdomen contains many other important organs. Pain in the abdomen can come from any one of them. The pain may start somewhere else, such as your chest. Severe pain doesn't always mean a serious problem. Nor does mild pain mean a problem is not serious.




Call your health care provider if mild pain lasts a week or more or if you have pain with other symptoms. Get medical help immediately if:

- You have abdominal pain that is sudden and sharp
- You also have pain in your chest, neck or shoulder
- You're vomiting blood or have blood in your stool
- Your abdomen is stiff, hard and tender to touch
- You can't move your bowels, especially if you're also vomiting

Start Here

- Abdominal Pain [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/symptoms/abdominal-pain/basics/definition/SYM-20050728?DSECTION=all&p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/symptoms/abdominal-pain/basics/definition/SYM-20050728?DSECTION=all&p=1>]
- Abdominal Pain Syndrome [<https://gi.org/topics/abdominal-pain/>] (American College of Gastroenterology)
Also in Spanish [<https://gi.org/patients/recursos-en-espanol/dolor-abdominal/>]

Diagnosis and Tests

- Abdominal and Pelvic CT (Computed Tomography) [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/abdominct>]
 (American College of Radiology; Radiological Society of North America)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/es/info/abdominct>]
- Abdominal Pain (Stomach Pain), Long-Term [<https://familydoctor.org/symptom/abdominal-pain-stomach-pain-long-term/?adfree=true>] (American Academy of Family Physicians)
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/sintoma/dolor-en-el-abdomen-largo-plazo/?adfree=true>]
- Abdominal Pain (Stomach Pain), Short-Term [<https://familydoctor.org/symptom/abdominal-pain-stomach-pain-short-term/?adfree=true>] (American Academy of Family Physicians)
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/sintoma/dolor-en-el-abdomen-de-corta-duracion/?adfree=true>]
- Abdominal Ultrasound [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/abdominus>]
 (American College of Radiology; Radiological Society of North America)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/es/info/abdominus>]
- Endoscopy: MedlinePlus Health Topic [<https://medlineplus.gov/endoscopy.html>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/endoscopy.html>]

Specifics


- Functional Dyspepsia [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/functional-dyspepsia/symptoms-causes/syc-20375709?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/functional-dyspepsia/symptoms-causes/syc-20375709?p=1>]
- Indigestion (Dyspepsia) [<https://familydoctor.org/condition/indigestion-dyspepsia/?adfree=true>]
(American Academy of Family Physicians)
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/condicion/indigestion-dispepsia-es/?adfree=true>]

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Efficacy and safety of acupuncture for IgA vasculitis abdominal pain: protocol... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40713044>]
- Article: Development and implementation of an etiology-based diagnostic framework for acute abdominal... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40682160>]
- Article: Features of Undiagnosed Abdominal Pain and Diagnostic Status of Acute Hepatic... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40657380>]
- Abdominal Pain -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Abdominal+Pain%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bedat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

Find an Expert

- American College of Gastroenterology [<https://gi.org>]
- National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases [<https://www.niddk.nih.gov>] 

Children

- Colic [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/colic.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/colic.html>]
- Colic in Babies [<https://familydoctor.org/condition/colic/?adfree=true>] (American Academy of Family Physicians)
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/condicion/colicos-es/?adfree=true>]
- Functional Abdominal Pain (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/functional-abdominal-pain.html>]
(Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/functional-abdominal-pain.html>]
- Intussusception [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/intussusception.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/intussusception.html>]
- Pediatric Abdominal Ultrasound [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/abdomus-pdi>]
 (American College of Radiology; Radiological Society of North America)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/es/info/abdomus-pdi>]
- Stomachaches (For Kids) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/kids/abdominal-pain.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/kids/abdominal-pain.html>]
- Talking about GI Disorders [<https://aboutkidsgi.org/living-with-gi-disorders/talking-about-gi-disorders/>]
(International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders)
- Ultrasound: Abdomen (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/ultrasound-abdomen.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/ultrasound-abdomen.html>]
- What to Do About Stomachaches [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/stomachaches-sheet.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/stomachaches-sheet.html>]

Teenagers

- Stomachaches (For Teens) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/teens/stomachaches.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/teens/stomachaches.html>]

Patient Handouts

- Abdominal pain [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003120.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003120.htm>]
- Flank pain [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003113.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003113.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Abdominal CT scan [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003789.htm>]

Abdominal mass [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003274.htm>]

Abdominal MRI scan [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003796.htm>]

Abdominal pain [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003120.htm>]

Abdominal rigidity [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003136.htm>]

Abdominal ultrasound [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003777.htm>]

Diagnostic laparoscopy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003918.htm>]

Flank pain [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003113.htm>]

Intussusception - children [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000958.htm>]

Mittelschmerz [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001503.htm>]

Peritonitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001335.htm>]

Point tenderness - abdomen [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003273.htm>]

Small intestinal ischemia and infarction [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001151.htm>]

Related Health Topics

Indigestion [<https://medlineplus.gov/indigestion.html>]

Pain [<https://medlineplus.gov/pain.html>]

Pelvic Pain [<https://medlineplus.gov/pelvicpain.html>]

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