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Abscess

An abscess is a pocket of pus. You can get an abscess almost anywhere in your body. When an area of your body becomes infected, your body's immune system tries to fight the infection. White blood cells go to the infected area, collect within the damaged tissue, and cause inflammation. During this process, pus forms. Pus is a mixture of living and dead white blood cells, germs, and dead tissue.

Bacteria, viruses, parasites and swallowed objects can all lead to abscesses. Skin abscesses are easy to detect. They are red, raised and painful. Abscesses inside your body may not be obvious and can damage organs, including the brain, lungs and others. Treatments include drainage and antibiotics.

Start Here

- Abscess [<https://skinsight.com/skin-conditions/abscess/?lmiw9cApl=1>] (VisualDX)
- Skin Abscesses [<https://kidshealth.org/en/teens/abscess.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/teens/abscess.html>]

Diagnosis and Tests

- CT Enterography [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/CTenterography>]
(American College of Radiology; Radiological Society of North America)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/es/info/CTenterography>]
- MR Enterography [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/MRenterography>]
(American College of Radiology; Radiological Society of North America)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/es/info/MRenterography>]

Treatments and Therapies


- Percutaneous Abscess Drainage [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/PercAbscessDrn>]
(American College of Radiology; Radiological Society of North America)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/es/info/PercAbscessDrn>]

Related Issues

- Hidradenitis Suppurativa [<https://www.aocd.org/page/HidradenitisSuppura?>] (American Osteopathic College of Dermatology)
- Pilonidal Cyst [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/pilonidal-cyst/symptoms-causes/syc-20376329?p=1>]
(Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/pilonidal-cyst/symptoms-causes/syc-20376329?p=1>]

Specifics


- Abscess in the Lungs [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/home/lung-and-airway-disorders/abscess-in-the-lungs/abscess-in-the-lungs>] (Merck & Co., Inc.)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/es-us/hogar/trastornos-del-pulm%C3%B3n-y-las-v%C3%ADas-respiratorias/absceso-pulmonar/absceso-pulmonar>]

Anal Abscess and Fistula [<https://fascrs.org/patients/diseases-and-conditions/a-z/abscess-and-fistula-expanded-information>]  (American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons)

Also in Spanish [<https://fascrs.org/patients/diseases-and-conditions/a-z/absceso-anal-y-la-fistula>]

- **Bartholin's Cyst** [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/bartholin-cyst/symptoms-causes/syc-20369976?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
- **Folliculitis** [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/folliculitis/symptoms-causes/syc-20361634?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/folliculitis/symptoms-causes/syc-20361634?p=1>]
- **Peritonsillar Abscess** [<https://familydoctor.org/condition/peritonsillar-abscess/?adfree=true>] (American Academy of Family Physicians)
Also in Spanish [<https://es.familydoctor.org/condicion/absceso-periamigdalino-es/?adfree=true>]

Clinical Trials


- **ClinicalTrials.gov: Abscess** [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Abscess%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

Journal Articles


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

- **Article: Aortic Valve Infective Endocarditis with Root Abscess: Root Repair Versus Root...** [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40732674>]
- **Article: Unraveling the link between inflammatory bowel disease and perianal abscess: insights...** [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40730952>]
- **Article: Developmental Defect of Enamel in Permanent Teeth Associated With Chronic Endodontic...** [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40700621>]
- **Abscess -- see more articles** [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Abscess%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

- **National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases** [<https://www.niaid.nih.gov/>] 

Children

- **Abscess** [<https://skinsight.com/skin-conditions/abscess/child/?lmiw9cApl=1>] (VisualDX)
- **Retropharyngeal Abscess (For Parents)** [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/retropharyngeal-abscess.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/retropharyngeal-abscess.html>]
- **What's the Gips Procedure? Treating Pilonidal Cysts (For Parents)** [https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/pilonidal_gips_animation.html]  (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/pilonidal_gips_animation.html]

Teenagers

- **Peritonsillar Abscess (For Teens)** [<https://kidshealth.org/en/teens/peritonsillar-abscess.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/teens/peritonsillar-abscess.html>]

Patient Handouts

- **Abscess** [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001353.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001353.htm>]
- **Abscess - abdomen or pelvis** [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000212.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)

Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000212.htm>]

- Amebic liver abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000211.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000211.htm>]
- Anorectal abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001519.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001519.htm>]
- Bartholin cyst or abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001489.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001489.htm>]
- Brain abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000783.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000783.htm>]
- Epidural abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001416.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001416.htm>]
- Indium-labelled WBC scan [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003382.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003382.htm>]
- Pancreatic abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000270.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000270.htm>]
- Perirenal abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001274.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001274.htm>]
- Peritonsillar abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000986.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000986.htm>]
- Pyogenic liver abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000261.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000261.htm>]
- Retropharyngeal abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000984.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000984.htm>]
- Skin abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000863.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000863.htm>]
- Subareolar abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001501.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001501.htm>]
- Surgery for pilonidal cyst [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007591.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/007591.htm>]
- Tooth abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001060.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001060.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001353.htm>]

Abscess - abdomen or pelvis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000212.htm>]

Actinomycosis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000599.htm>]

Amebic liver abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000211.htm>]

Anorectal abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001519.htm>]

Bartholin cyst or abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001489.htm>]

Brain abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000783.htm>]

Brain herniation [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001421.htm>]

Epidural abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001416.htm>]

Indium-labelled WBC scan [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003382.htm>]

Pancreatic abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000270.htm>]

Perirenal abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001274.htm>]

Peritonsillar abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000986.htm>]

Pulmonary aspergilloma [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000127.htm>]

Pyogenic liver abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000261.htm>]

Retropharyngeal abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000984.htm>]

Skin abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000863.htm>]

Skin lesion aspiration [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003451.htm>]

Spinal cord abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001405.htm>]

Subareolar abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001501.htm>]

Surgery for pilonidal cyst [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007591.htm>]

Tooth abscess [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001060.htm>]

Related Health Topics

Infectious Diseases [<https://medlineplus.gov/infectiousdiseases.html>]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Abscess* is the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases [<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/>]

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