






C. Diff. Colitis

Also called: clostridium difficile colitis, pseudomembranous colitis

Inflammation of the colon caused by the bacteria *Clostridium difficile*.

Common

More than 200,000 US cases per year

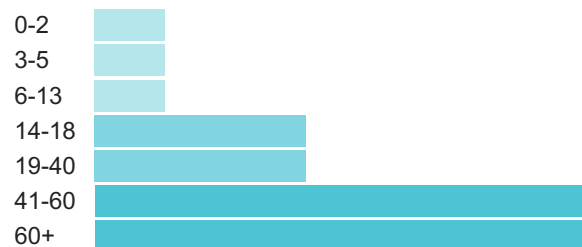
-  Treatable by a medical professional
-  Requires a medical diagnosis
-  Lab tests or imaging always required
-  Spreads by contact with a contaminated object or surface
-  Short-term: resolves within days to weeks

Clostridium difficile colitis results from disruption of normal healthy bacteria in the colon, often from antibiotics. *C. difficile* can also be transmitted from person to person by spores. It can cause severe damage to the colon and even be fatal.

Symptoms include diarrhea, belly pain, and fever.

Treatment includes antibiotics. In rare cases, fecal transplant or surgery may be needed.

Ages affected



How it spreads

By touching a contaminated surface (blanket or doorknob).

Symptoms

Requires a medical diagnosis

Symptoms include diarrhea, belly pain, and fever.

People may experience:

Pain areas: in the abdomen

Gastrointestinal: diarrhea, bloating, or blood in stool

Also common: fever

Treatments

Treatment consists of antibiotics

Treatment includes antibiotics. In rare cases, fecal transplant or surgery may be needed.

Medications

Antibiotics: Stops the growth of or kills bacteria.

- Vancomycin (Vancocin)
- Metronidazole (Flagyl, Metro I.V., and Flagyl ER)

Specialists

Infectious disease doctor: Treats infections, including those that are tropical in nature.

Primary care provider (PCP): Prevents, diagnoses, and treats diseases.

Emergency medicine doctor: Treats patients in the emergency department.

Consult a doctor for medical advice

Note: The information you see describes what usually happens with a medical condition, but doesn't apply to everyone. This information isn't medical advice, so make sure to contact a healthcare provider if you have a medical problem. If you think you may have a medical emergency, call your doctor or a emergency number immediately.

Sources: Mayo Clinic and others. [Learn more](#)