

## **ABSTRACT**

### **Acute Abdomen in Adults**

The term acute abdomen represents the rapid onset of severe abdominal symptoms that may indicate a potentially life-threatening intra-abdominal pathology that requires urgent surgical intervention. Abdominal pain is the presenting complaint in 1.5% and 5% of office-based and emergency department visits respectively. The clinical course can vary from minutes to weeks and may at times be an acute exacerbation of a chronic problem. In this cohort of patients, up to 10% of patients have severe life-threatening causes. Therefore, it is pertinent to appropriately diagnose these patients at your practice and refer them for specialist care. This lecture is intended to highlight the essentials of diagnosing an acute abdomen and early emergent care at general practice set up.

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