

Abdominal distension

Acute abdominal **distension** refers to a sudden and severe swelling or bloating of the **abdomen**, which can be caused by various medical conditions. It's often accompanied by discomfort or pain and may indicate a serious underlying issue requiring immediate medical attention. Some potential causes include:

Gastrointestinal obstruction: Blockage in the intestines, often caused by adhesions, tumors, or hernias, can lead to distension due to the accumulation of gas and fluids.

Perforation: A hole or rupture in the gastrointestinal tract, such as a perforated ulcer or appendicitis, can cause air or fluid to leak into the abdomen, leading to distension and severe pain.

Ascites: Accumulation of fluid in the abdominal cavity, commonly seen in conditions like liver cirrhosis, heart failure, or certain cancers, can cause abdominal distension.

Intestinal ischemia: Reduced blood flow to the intestines can lead to tissue damage and distension. This condition is often associated with severe abdominal pain and requires urgent medical attention.

Ileus: Paralysis or decreased motility of the intestines, which can occur after surgery, due to medications, or as a result of certain medical conditions, can cause abdominal distension.

Inflammatory conditions: Conditions like pancreatitis, diverticulitis, or inflammatory bowel disease can cause inflammation and swelling in the abdomen, leading to distension.

Gastroparesis: Delayed emptying of the stomach due to nerve damage can result in abdominal distension, bloating, and discomfort.

Gastric dilation-volvulus: This is a life-threatening condition in which the stomach becomes distended and twists on itself, cutting off blood flow. It's a medical emergency requiring immediate intervention.

A distended abdomen is measurably swollen beyond its normal size. It's often accompanied by the feeling of being bloated with trapped gas or digestive contents. However, abdominal distension isn't

always from digestive processes

From:

<https://neurosurgerywiki.com/wiki/> - **Neurosurgery Wiki**

Permanent link:

https://neurosurgerywiki.com/wiki/doku.php?id=abdominal_distension

Last update: **2024/06/07 02:54**

