

# Bowel obstruction

Bowel obstruction, also known as intestinal obstruction, is a mechanical or functional obstruction of the intestines which prevents the normal movement of the products of digestion.

Either the small bowel or large bowel may be affected.

Signs and symptoms include abdominal pain, vomiting, bloating and not passing gas.

Mechanical obstruction is the cause of about 5 to 15% of cases of severe abdominal pain of sudden onset requiring admission to hospital.

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