

# Dynamic plain abdominal radiography

Dynamic plain [abdominal radiography](#) refers to a series of X-ray images taken of the [abdomen](#) over time, often with the patient in different positions or at different stages of a physiological process. This technique is used to assess the movement and function of various structures within the abdomen, such as the [gastrointestinal tract](#).

## Purpose and Uses

- **Intestinal Obstruction:** It helps in diagnosing conditions like intestinal obstruction by showing air-fluid levels, dilated bowel loops, or absence of gas in certain areas.
- **Perforation:** It can detect free air under the diaphragm, indicating perforation of a hollow organ.
- **Ileus:** To differentiate between mechanical obstruction and ileus (a condition where the intestine fails to propel its contents).
- **Postoperative Evaluation:** Monitoring the postoperative abdomen, especially after bowel surgery.
- **Gastrointestinal Motility:** Evaluating the movement of contrast material through the intestines.

### Procedure 1. **Initial Image:** A standard plain abdominal X-ray is taken, often in the supine position. 2. **Dynamic Imaging:**

1. **Upright or Decubitus Views:** Additional images are taken with the patient in an upright or lateral decubitus position to evaluate the distribution of air and fluid.
2. **Multiple Time Points:** Images may be taken at various time intervals to observe the progression of intestinal contents or the appearance of air-fluid levels.

### Interpretation Radiologists interpret the images by looking for: - **Air-Fluid Levels:** Indicate potential bowel obstruction. - **Dilated Bowel Loops:** Suggests a blockage or decreased motility. - **Free Air:** Indicates a perforation. - **Gas Patterns:** Evaluating patterns of gas distribution to assess bowel function.

Dynamic abdominal radiography provides valuable information in acute and chronic abdominal conditions, helping guide further management or surgical intervention if necessary.

## Delayed shunt insufficiency

[Delayed shunt insufficiency](#)

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Last update: **2024/09/04 08:51**

