

Bowel (Intestinal) Obstruction

The intestine, a vital component of the digestive system, plays a crucial role in digesting food within the body. It consists of two main parts: the small intestine and the large intestine.

Small Intestine:

Duodenum

Jejunum

Ileum

Large Intestine:

Ascending colon

Transverse colon

Descending colon

Sigmoid colon

Rectum

What is Intestinal Obstruction?

Intestinal obstruction occurs when there is a blockage in the intestine, disrupting the normal flow of food and waste. Depending on the location of the blockage, it can be classified as small or large intestinal obstruction.

Causes: Intestinal obstruction can result from various factors:

Intraluminal: Blockage occurs inside the intestine.

Wall: Blockage within the intestinal wall.

Extra-luminal: Blockage originates from outside the intestine.

Symptoms: Signs of intestinal obstruction may include:

Bloating

Abdominal distension

Abdominal pain

Vomiting

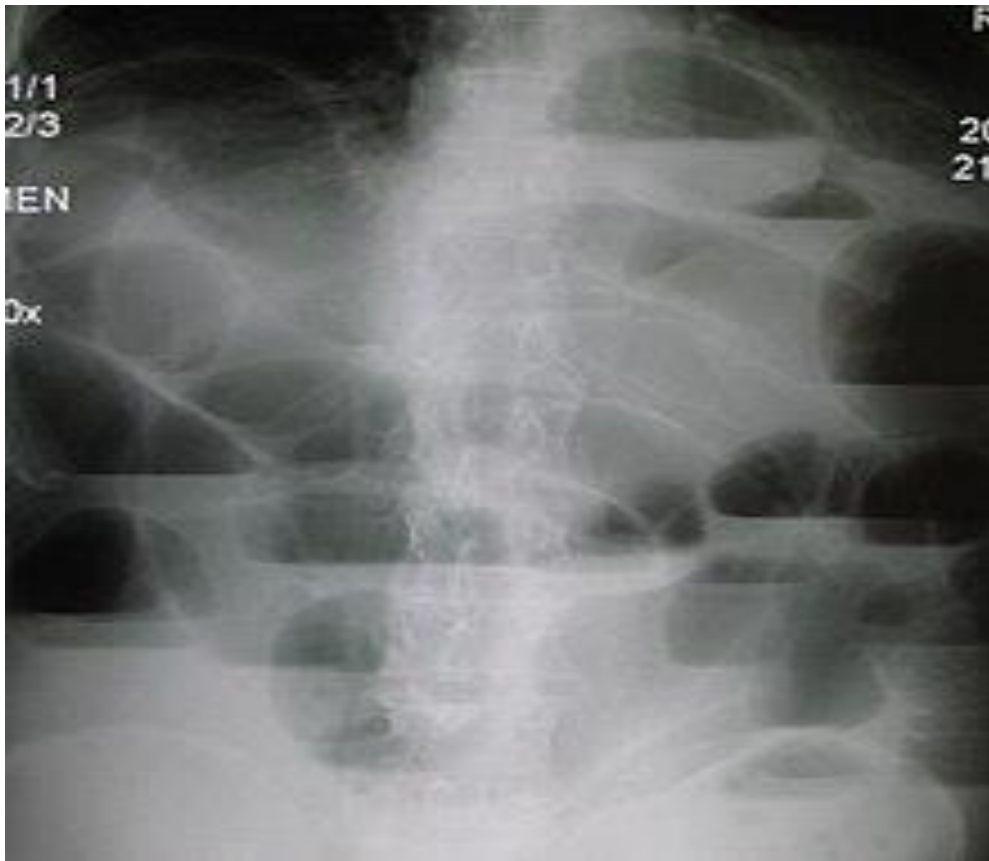
Absence of passing gas or wind

Decreased appetite

Investigation: Diagnosis typically involves:

Blood tests

X-ray of the abdomen



[Bowel obstruction - Wikipedia](#)

CT scan of the abdomen (for detailed assessment)

Note: Ultrasound is not typically used for diagnosing intestinal obstruction.

Classification: Based on symptoms and investigations, intestinal obstruction is categorized into:

Partial Obstruction: Involves a partial blockage of the intestine.

Complete Obstruction: Indicates a total blockage, requiring urgent intervention.

Treatment: Treatment strategy depends on the severity of obstruction:

Partial Obstruction: Managed conservatively with close monitoring and supportive care.

Complete Obstruction: Requires immediate surgical intervention to relieve the blockage and restore normal bowel function.

Remember:

Intestinal obstruction can be a serious medical condition that requires prompt attention. If you experience symptoms suggestive of intestinal obstruction, seek medical help promptly. Early diagnosis and appropriate management can help prevent complications and promote recovery. Your healthcare provider will guide you through the necessary steps based on your individual situation.