

# Differential diagnosis of inflammatory and ileal acute abdomen

**Non-traumatic acute abdomen (AA)** is divided into:

1. **inflammatory**,
2. **ileus**,
3. **gastrointestinal bleeding**,
4. **gynecological** and
5. **perioperative**.

## Typical symptoms of inflammatory acute abdomen

*Subjectively:*

- **pain** persistent, initially visceral (dull, imprecisely localized), later somatic (sharp, localized).

 For more information see *Types of pain in acute abdomen*.

*Objectively:*

- patient maintains an **unchanging position**, afraid to cough,
- limitation of breathing wave progression,
- abdominal muscular wall contraction (**défense musculaire**),
- in inflammation of the lower abdomen and small pelvis, **painful per rectum examination**,
- signs of peritoneal irritation (Plenies, Blumberg, Rovsing).

*Laboratory and other findings:*

- Increase in body temperature, heart rate, leukocytosis, ↑ FW and CRP (i.e., general inflammatory manifestations).

## Typical symptoms of ileus acute abdomen

*Subjectively:*

- colicky pain (mechanical ileus) or persistent **pain** from distention (advanced obstruction, paralytic ileus),

 For more information see *Ileus*.

- **vomiting** is common (reflex vomiting at the beginning, later from the accumulation of contents),
- **stopping the passage of gas and stool**.

*Objectively:*

- the patient frequently **changes position**, sometimes squeezes his abdomen,
- the abdominal wall is distended, tense, but not contracted,
- the abdomen breathes in its entirety,
- drum percussion,
- listening to the **amplification of peristalsis**, regular sounds, later ceases (and in paralytic ileus at the beginning),
- **per rectum examination** mostly **painless**.

*Laboratory and other findings:*

- sometimes acceleration of heart rate, body temperature, and leukocytes tend to be normal.

The two basic types of Acute abdomen can intermingle – inflammation is complicated by paralytic ileus, ileus is complicated by inflammation (peritonitis from perforation).

## References

### External links

- As. MUDr. Petr Růžička: Ileous acute abdomen E-learning (<https://el.lf1.cuni.cz/chir1002>)

### Related articles

- Differential diagnosis of ileus

- Objective symptoms of acute abdomen
- Subjective symptoms of acute abdomen
- Types of pain in acute abdomen

## Source

- PASTOR, Jan. *Langenbeck's medical web page* [online]. [cit. 2009]. <<<https://langenbeck.webs.com/>>>.