# 60-year-old female presenting with 12-hour history of sudden onset, sharp, left lower quadrant abdominal pain

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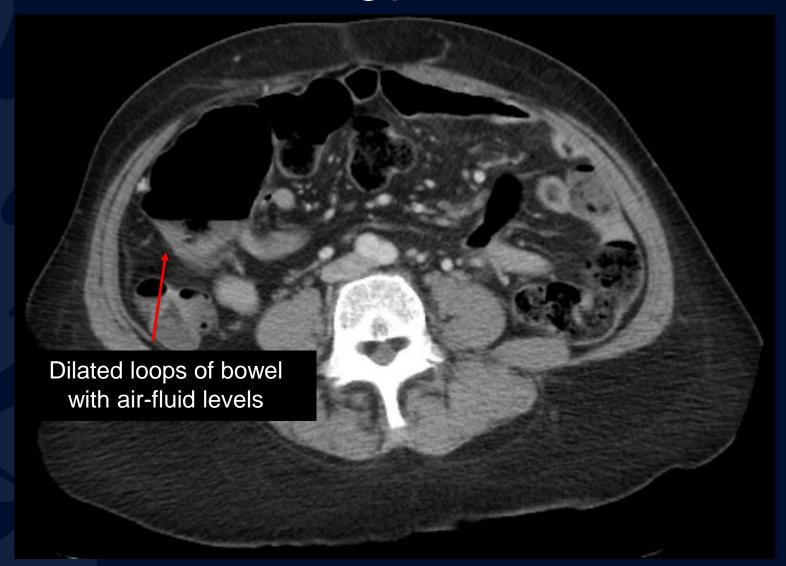




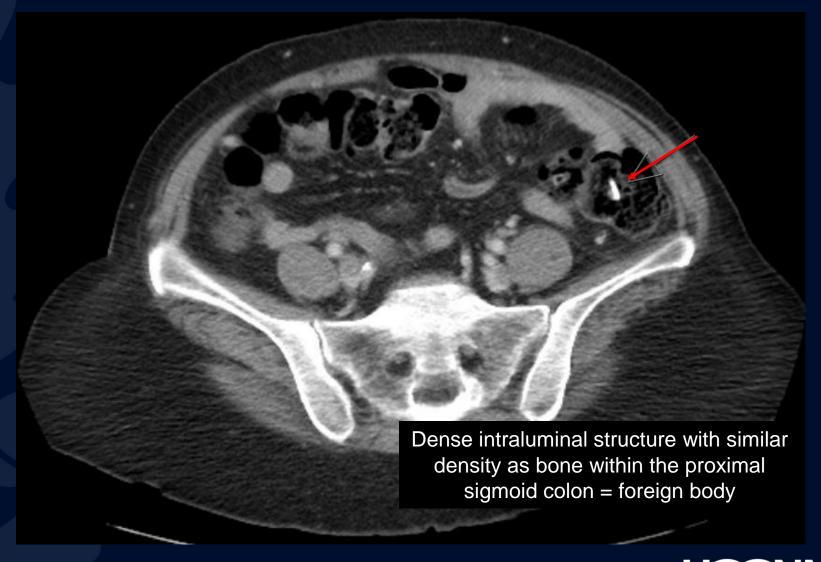


# Sigmoid Colon Perforation

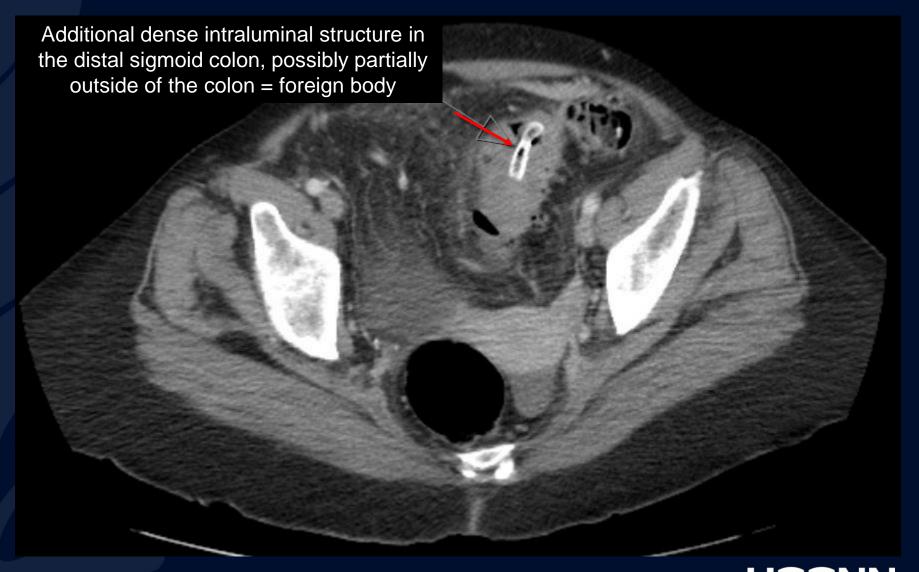




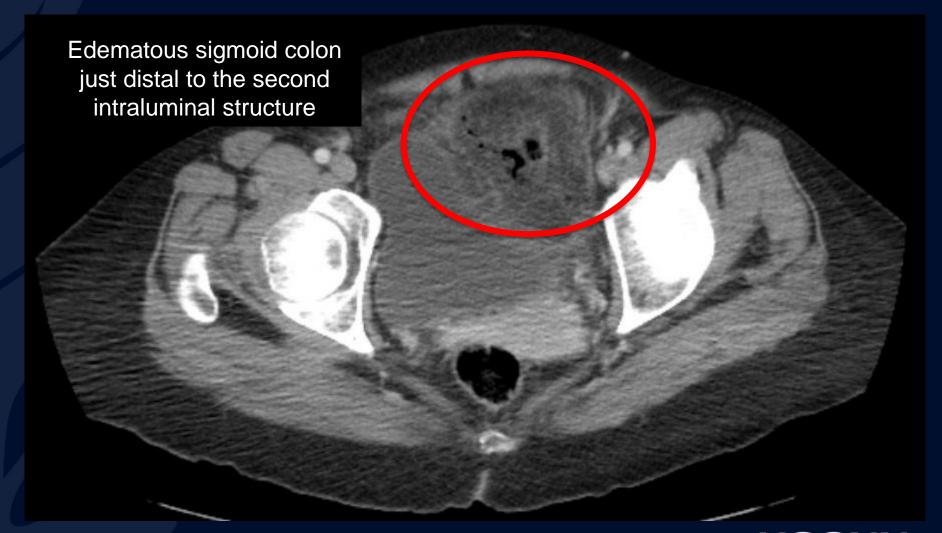


















### **Bowel Perforation**

#### Presentation

 Sudden onset, severe abdominal pain, more specific symptoms depending on location of perforation

#### **Imaging**

- Abdominal radiograph
  - 50 to 70% sensitivity for free air
  - Does not localize the perforation
- Abdominal CT
  - Can quantify amount of extraluminal gas
  - Helps identify the location and/or source of the perforation
  - Fistula or abscess formation if delayed treatment

#### **Treatment**

- Exploratory laparotomy, particularly if signs of sepsis, bowel ischemia, or bowel obstruction
- Broad spectrum antibiotics



## References

Odom, S.R., Weiser, M., Raghavendran, K., and Chen, W. (2023). Overview of Gastrointestinal Tract Perforation. In T.W. Post, P. Rutgeerts, & S. Grover (Eds.), *UptoDate*. Available from: <a href="https://www-uptodate-com.online.uchc.edu/contents/overview-of-gastrointestinal-tract-perforation?search=bowel%20perforation&source=search\_result&selectedTitle=1~150&usage\_type=default&display\_rank=1#H75619939</a>

