

There are many causes of abdominal pain, ranging from viral and bacterial infections to spasms of the bowels. At this time, the cause of your pain is uncertain but it does not seem to be caused by anything dangerous or that may require surgery or hospitalization. Some serious problems (appendicitis, abscesses, etc.) can begin with mild symptoms that progressively become worse over time. For this reason, it is important that you follow-up, here or with your physician, for repeat examinations in order to follow the progression of your illness and determine a more specific diagnosis. It is very important that you return here or go to the nearest emergency department to be reexamined if your symptoms continue or worsen.

Instructions:

- 1) Take medicines as directed.
 - Unless your doctor tells you differently, always finish the full course of your antibiotic and steroid prescriptions, even if you start to feel better.
 - Antibiotics and steroids may interfere with the effectiveness of birth control pills. Use an alternative method of contraception for the remainder of the month after finishing your antibiotic or steroid prescription.
- 2) Drink only clear liquids (water, sprite, 7-up, and ginger ale) for the next _____ hours.
- 3) Advance to a bland or BRAT diet after _____ hours.
- 4) Follow up with outpatient x-ray studies as ordered.
- 5) Follow up here, the ED, or with your regular doctor in _____ hours if pain persists

Seek Medical Attention immediately if the following occurs:

- Pain that increases, does not go away or becomes localized to one area
- Persistent vomiting or vomiting red, green, or black vomit
- Fever or chills
- Yellowing of your skin or eyes, or dark colored urine
- Increasing or uncontrollable diarrhea
- Blood or mucus in stools or stools that appear red, black, or become light colored.