

Impression, Colon: Colorectal Emergencies

Vincent M. Mellnick, MD Professor of Radiology Chief, Abdominal Imaging Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology St. Louis, MO





Outline

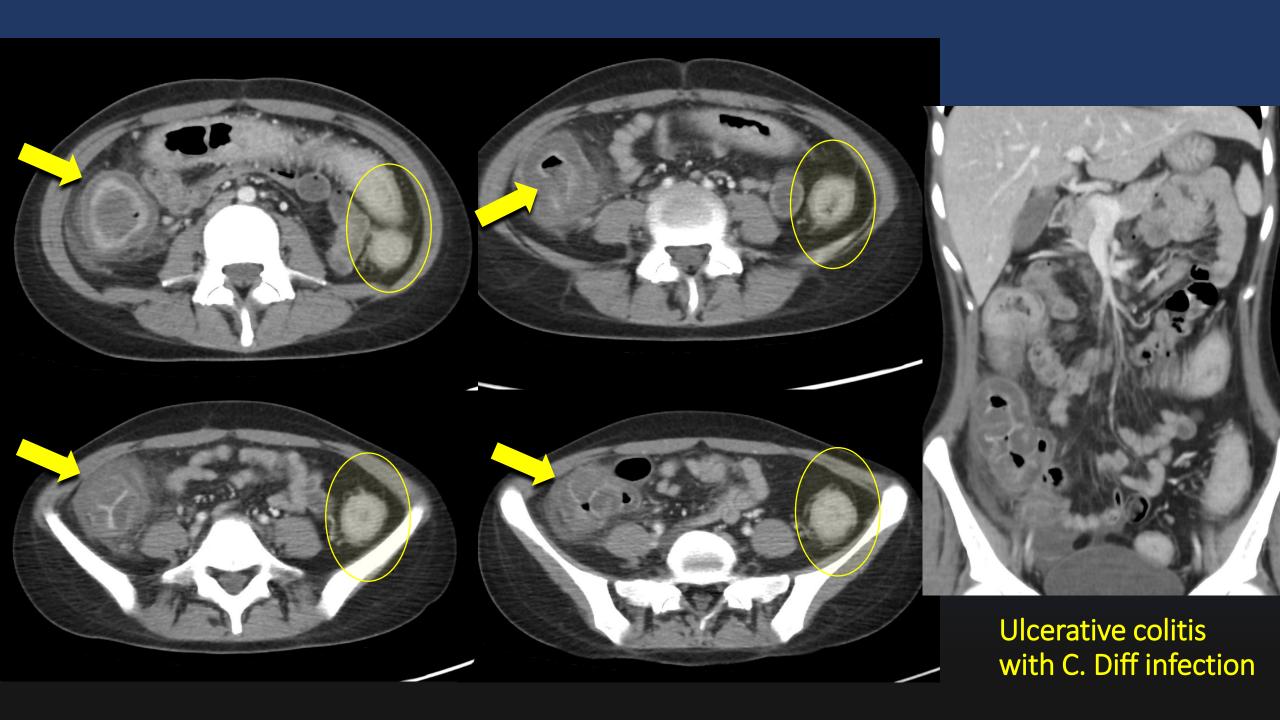
Colonic wall thickening

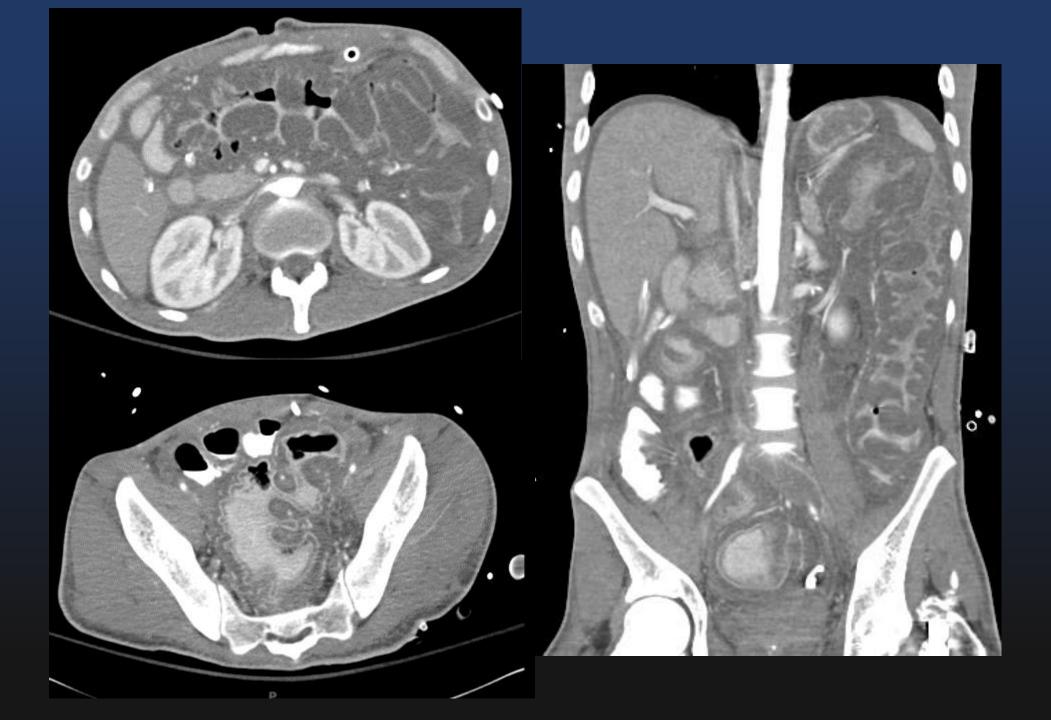
• Ischemia

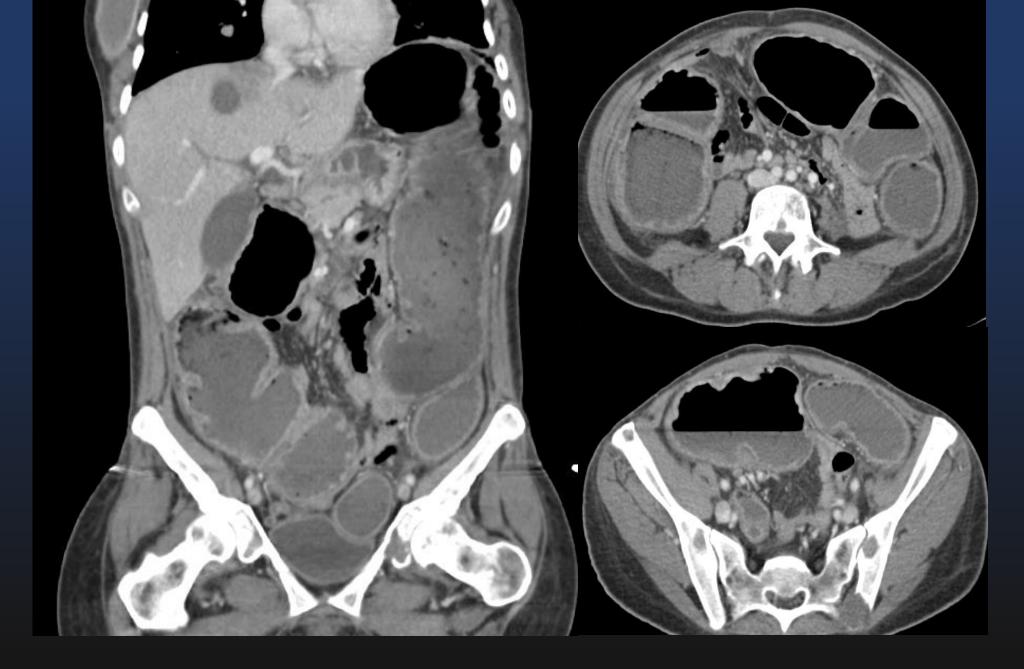
Obstruction

Perforation

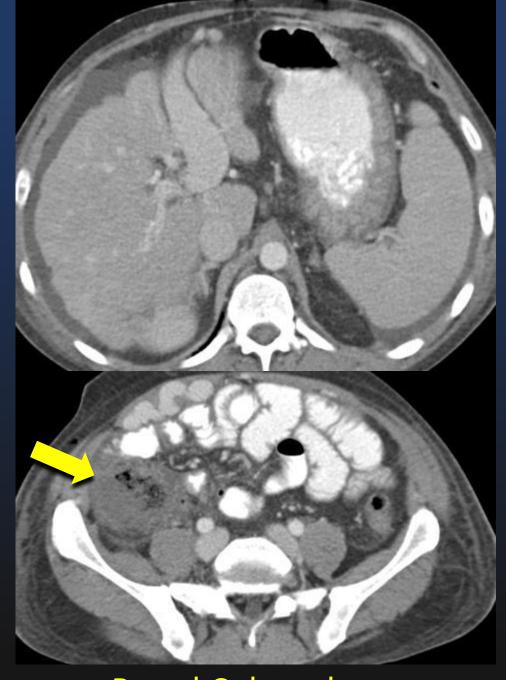
Hemorrhage



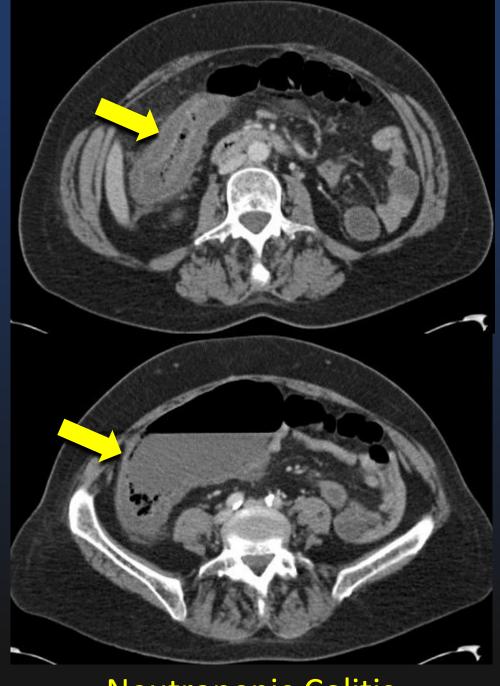




Ipilimumab Colitis



Portal Colopathy



Neutropenic Colitis

Colonic Wall Thickening – Try To Be More Specific





Severity



• Distribution

Secondary findings

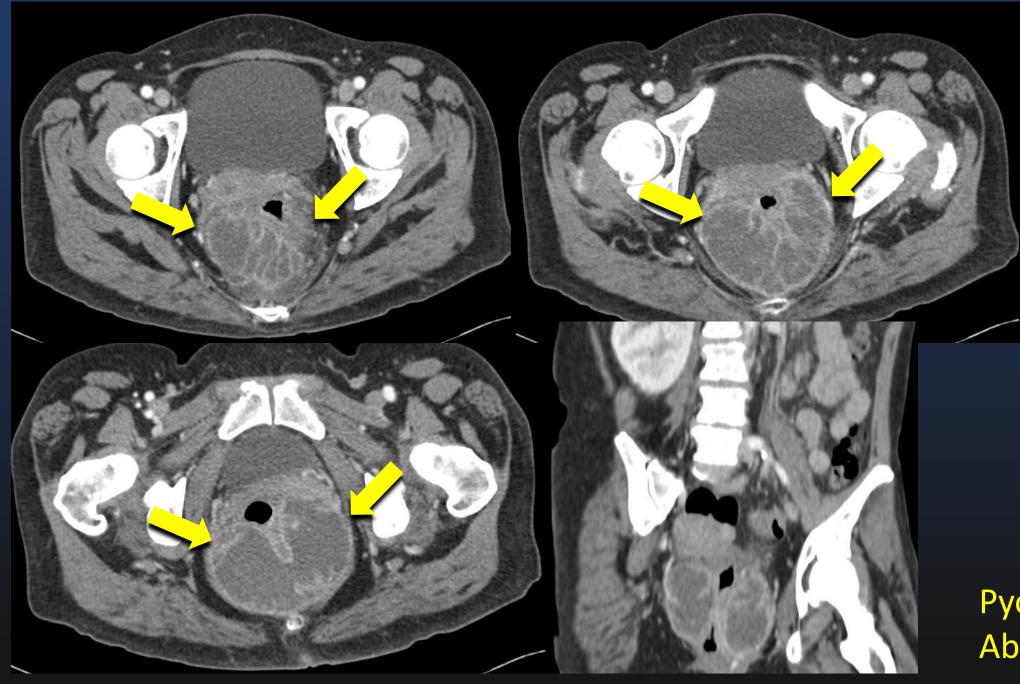




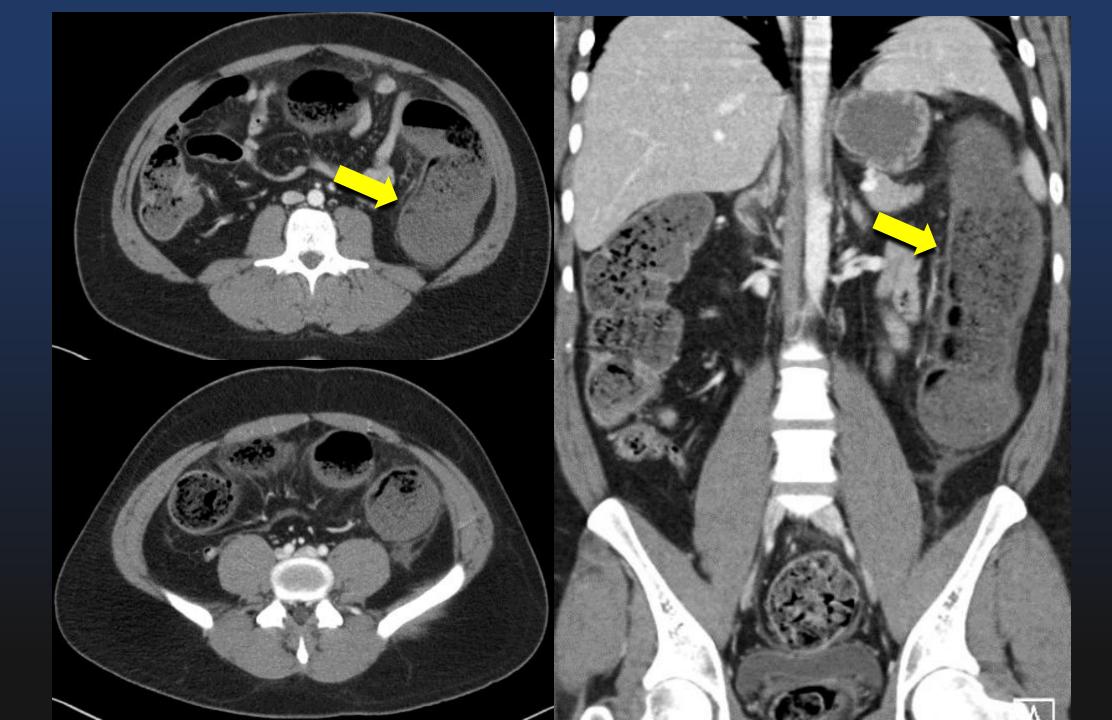




Syphilis M-Pox C. Difficile



Pyogenic Abscess



Ischemic Colitis

- More common than small bowel ischemia
- Up to 75% recover
 - Usually no sequelae
 - Occasionally chronic changes ~ IBD
- Different causes:
 - Medium- to small-vessel disease
 - No history of shock, embolic source
 - Blood loss < 1 unit

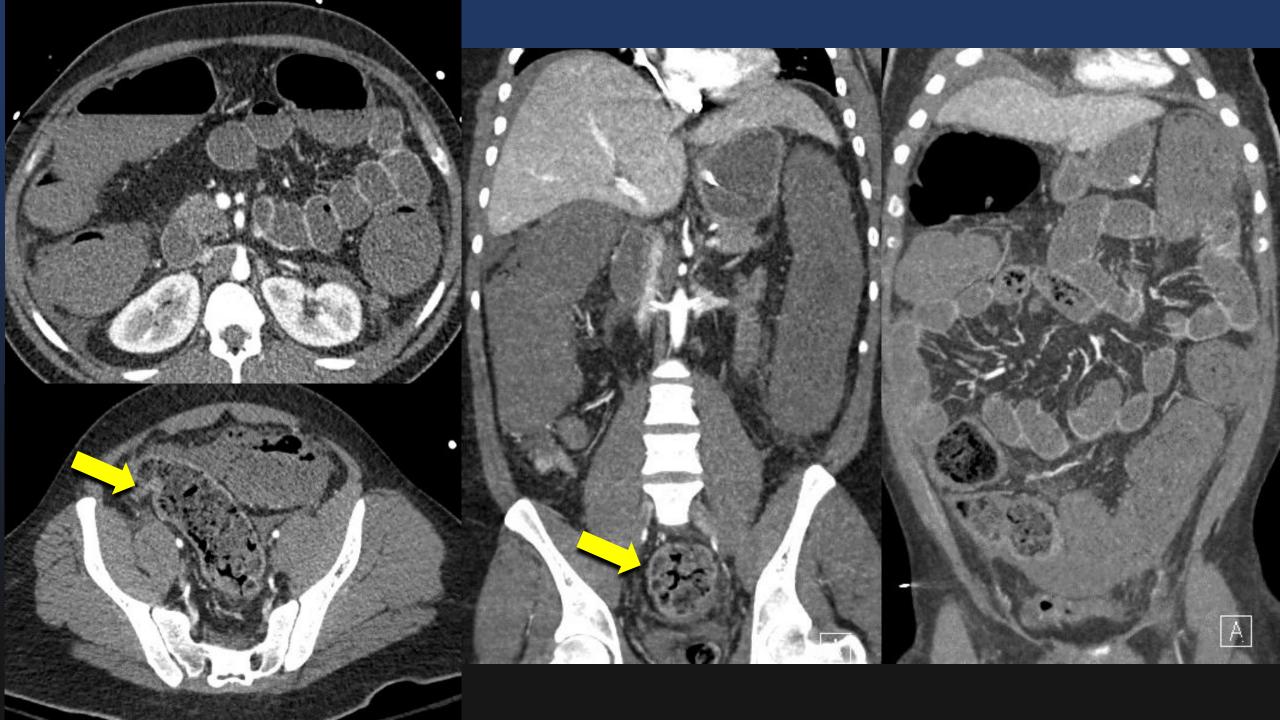


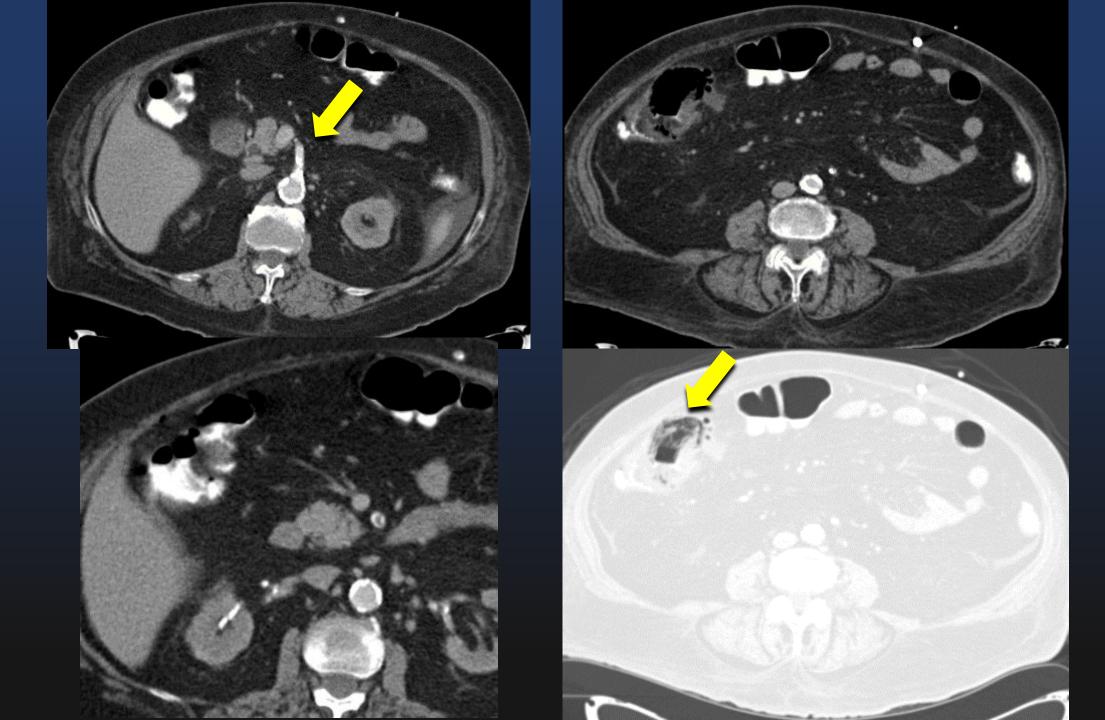
Ischemic Colitis – CT Findings

- Cruz et al, Emerg Radiol 2015
 - Bowel wall thickening 88%
 - Fat stranding 88%
 - Abnormal wall enhancement 82%
 - Venous engorgement 51%
 - Fluid or ascites 35%
 - Dilatation 20%
 - Pneumatosis 9.8%
 - Portomesenteric gas 1.9%







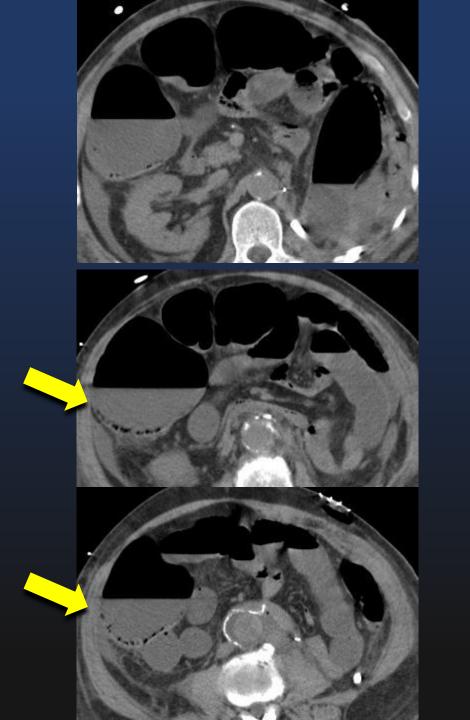


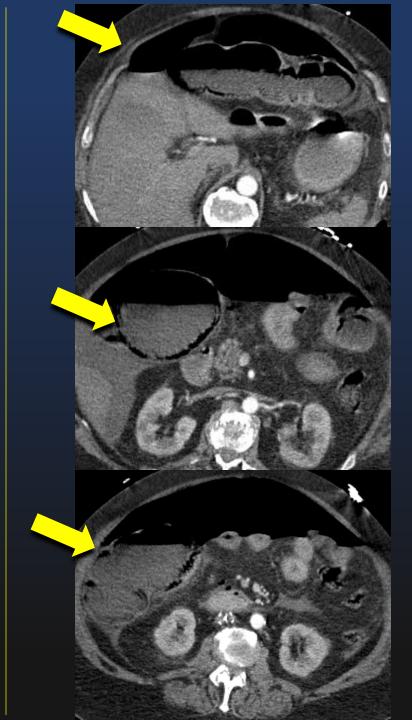


Colonic Pneumatosis – Not Always Ischemia

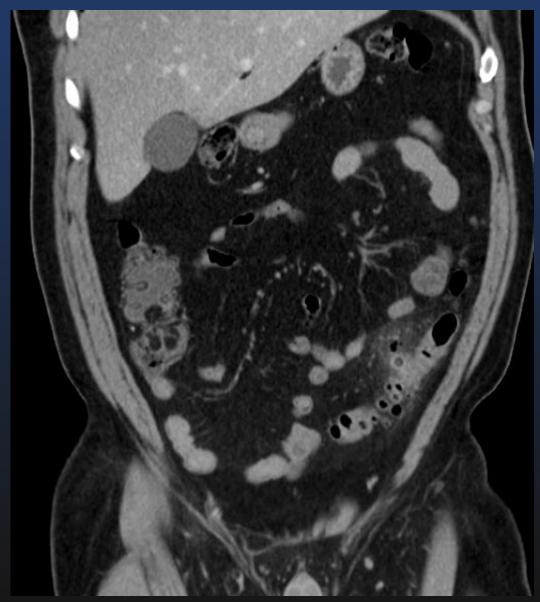
- Primary form
 - Pneumatosis cystoides intestinalis
 - Uncommon
 - Usually asymptomatic
 - Thin wall-submucosal or subserosal cysts
- Secondary form (85%)
 - Ischemia
 - Nonischemic causes: COPD, Obstruction,
 Immunosuppression steroids and chemotherapy





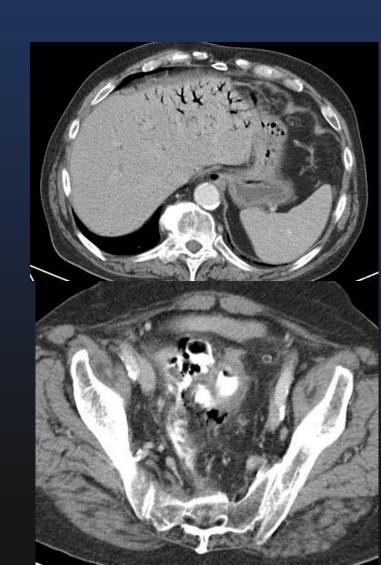


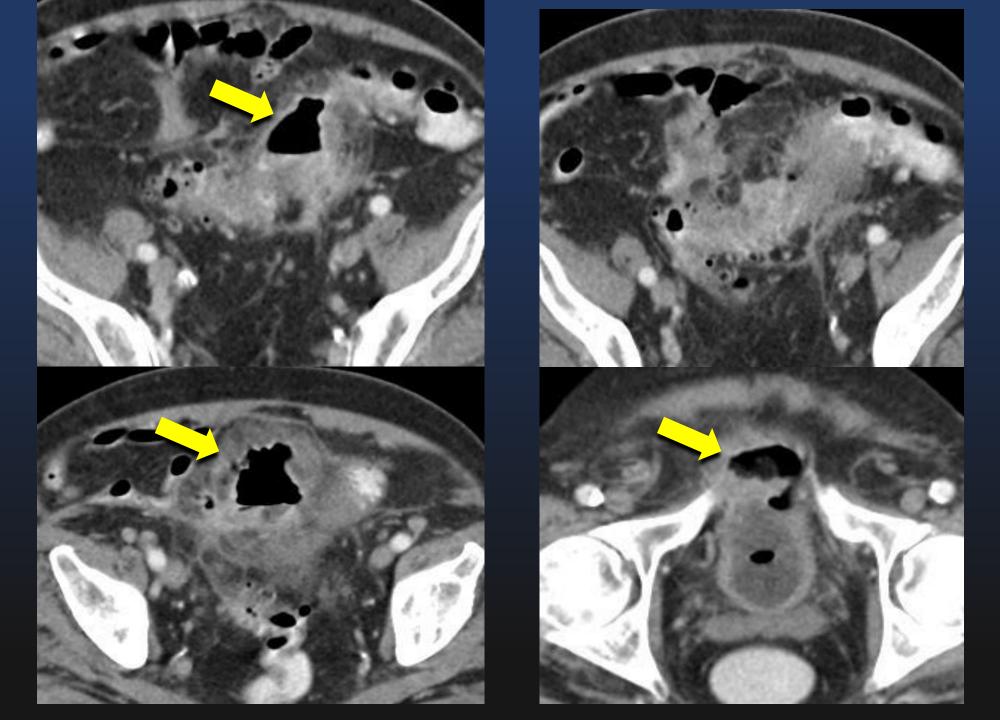




Inflammation/Infection: Diverticulitis

- Several grading scales proposed
- Modified Hinchey classification
 - Stage 0: Mild clinical diverticulitis
 - Stage 1a: Confined pericolic inflammation or phlegmon
 - Stage 1b: Pericolic or mesocolic abscess
 - Stage 2: Pelvic, distant, or retroperitoneal abscess
 - Stage 3: Generalized purulent peritonitis
 - Stage 4: Generalized fecal peritonitis



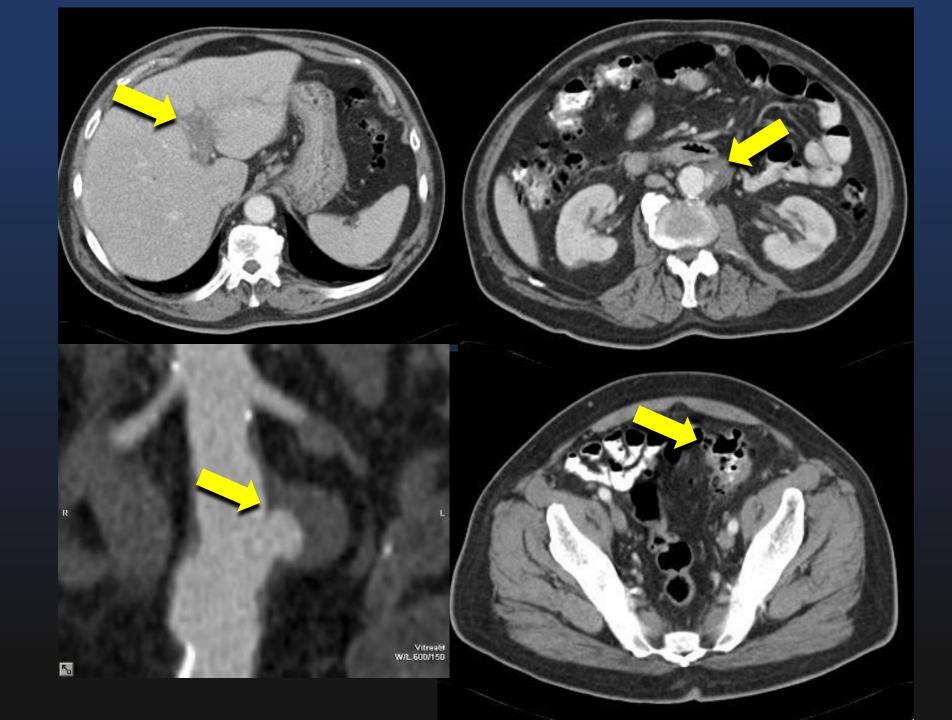


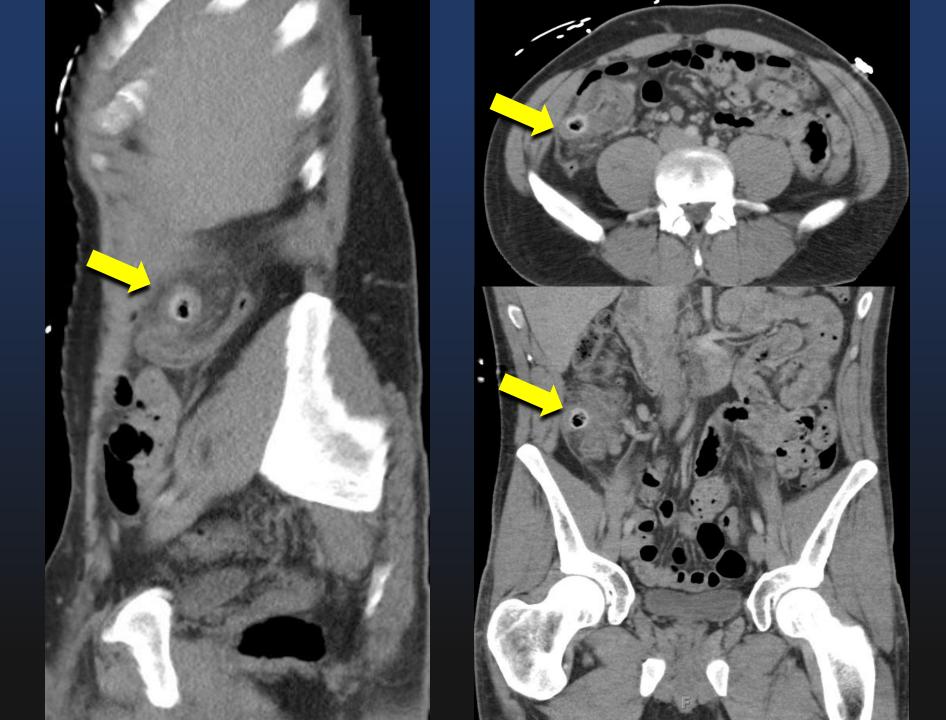


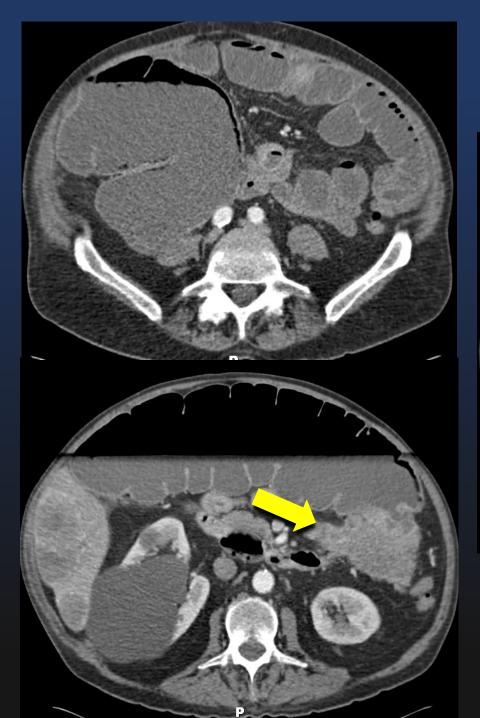


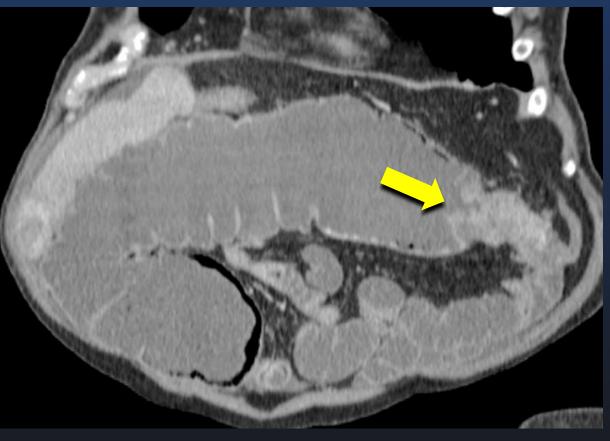






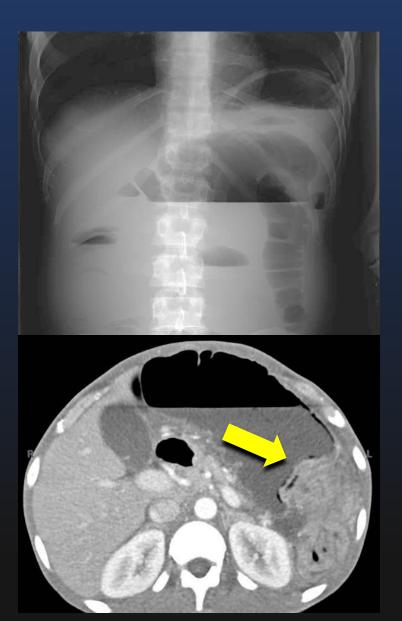






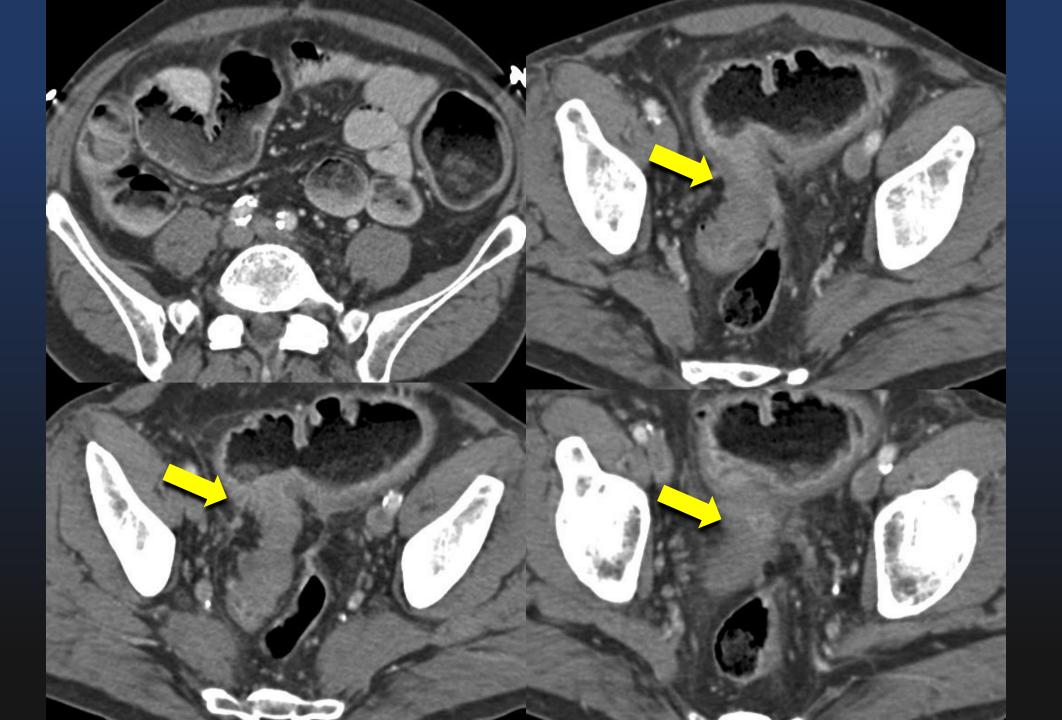
Obstruction: Malignancy

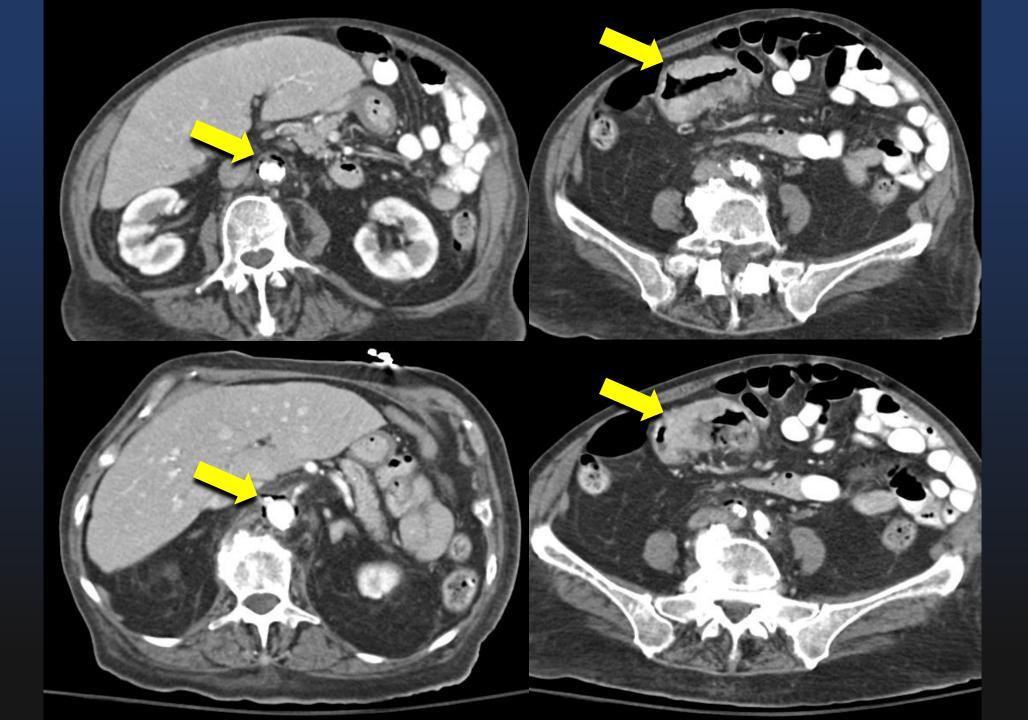
- Most common cause of colonic obstruction in adults (50-60% of cases)
- Typically primary colon adenocarcinoma, but other tumors can obstruct, especially in the pelvis
- CT Findings:
 - Soft tissue mass at the transition point of colonic obstruction
 - Can be subtle pay attenuation to attenuation of submucosa
 - Other evidence of metastatic disease

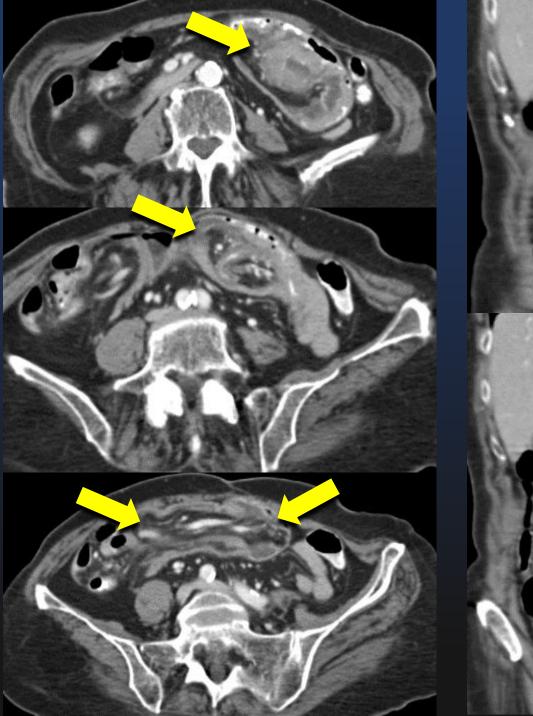


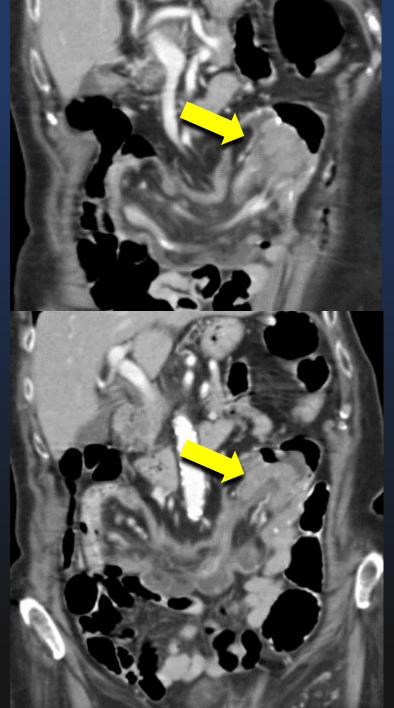












Obstruction: Intussusception

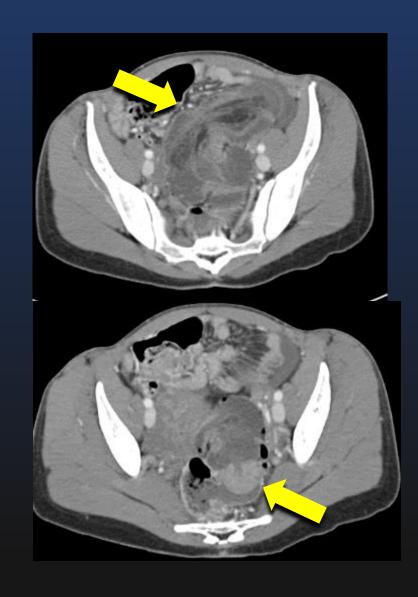
Colonic intussusception is rare in adults

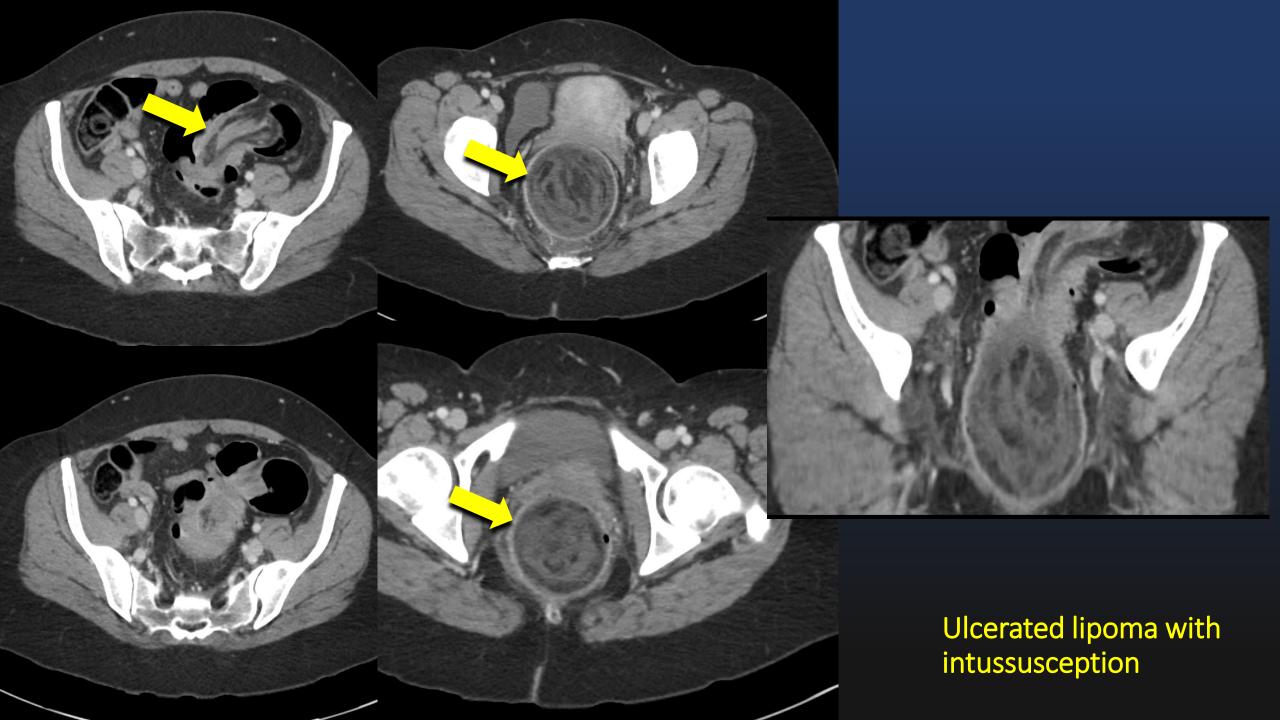
Most commonly caused by malignancy

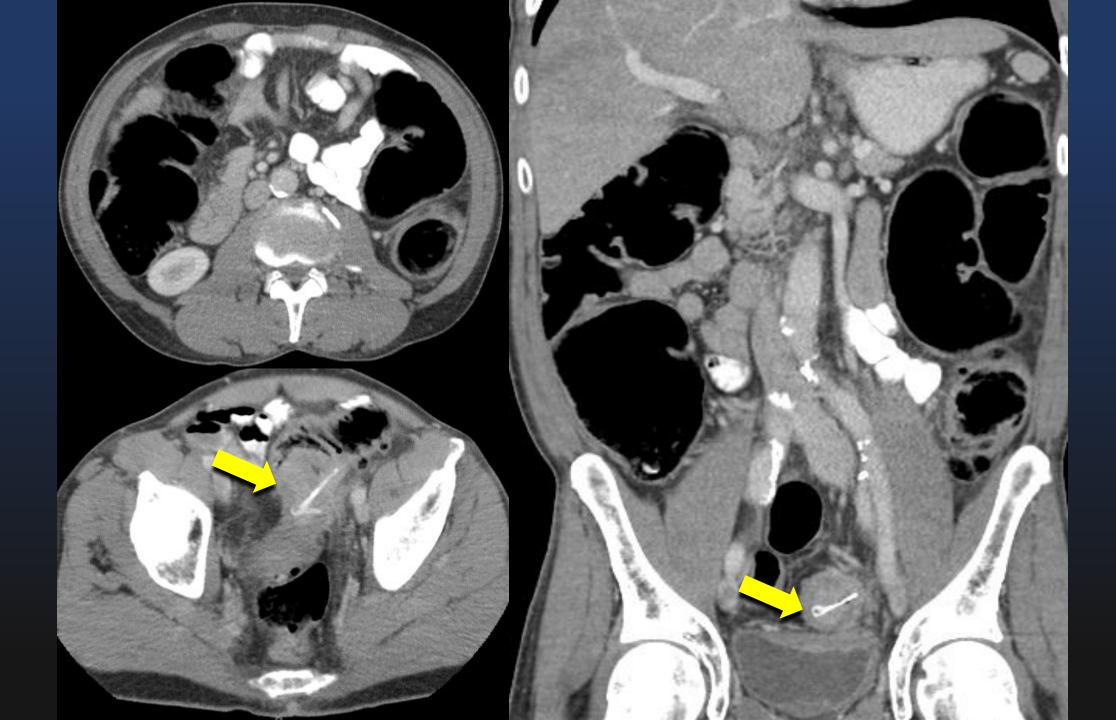
Almost all have lead-point masses

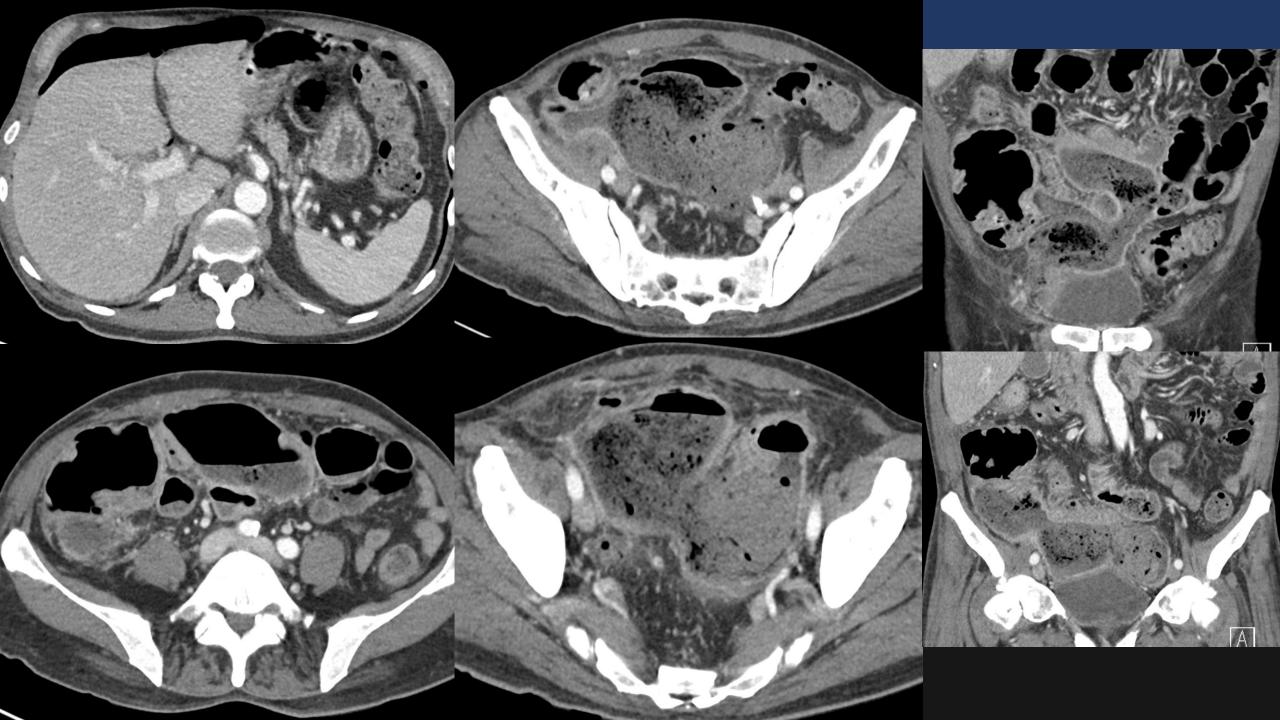
May be chronic

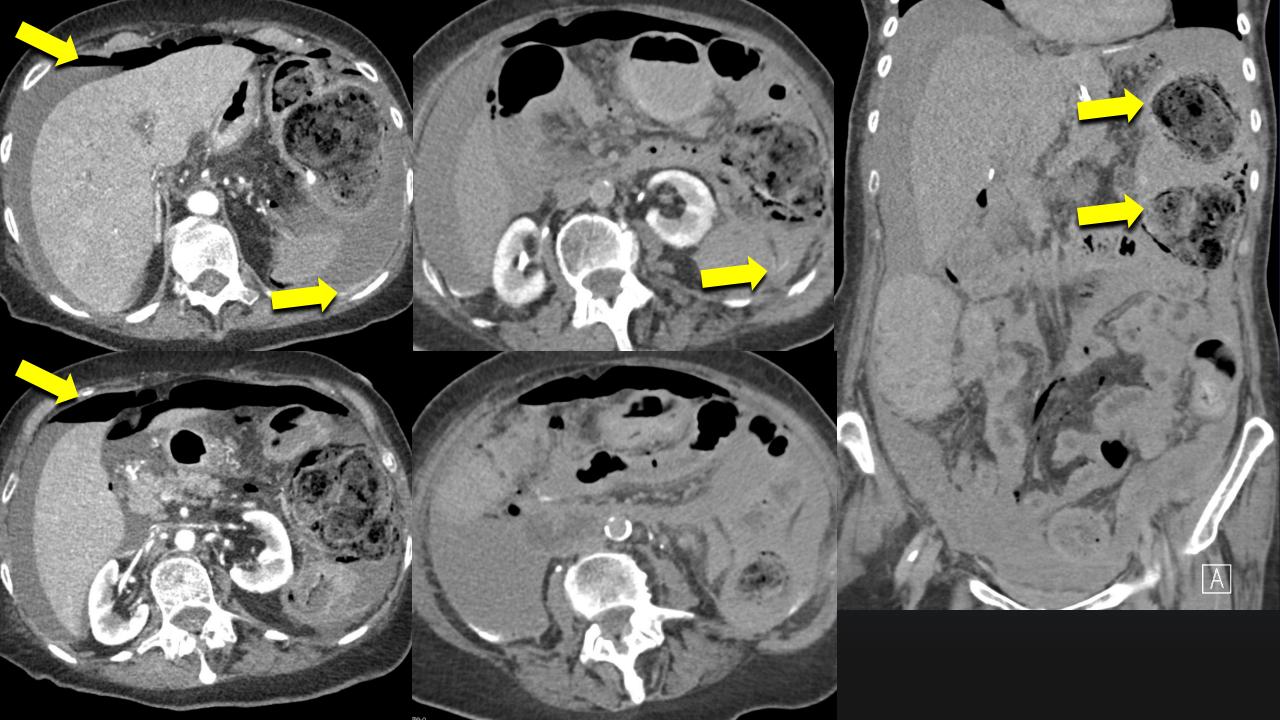
 Key to diagnosis – mesenteric fat/vessels in bowel <u>lumen</u>









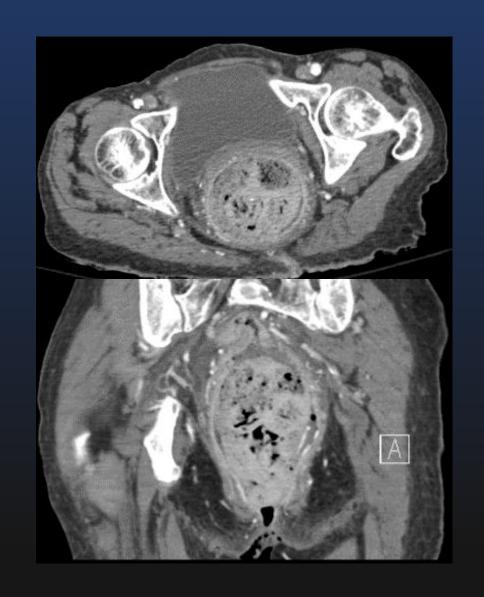


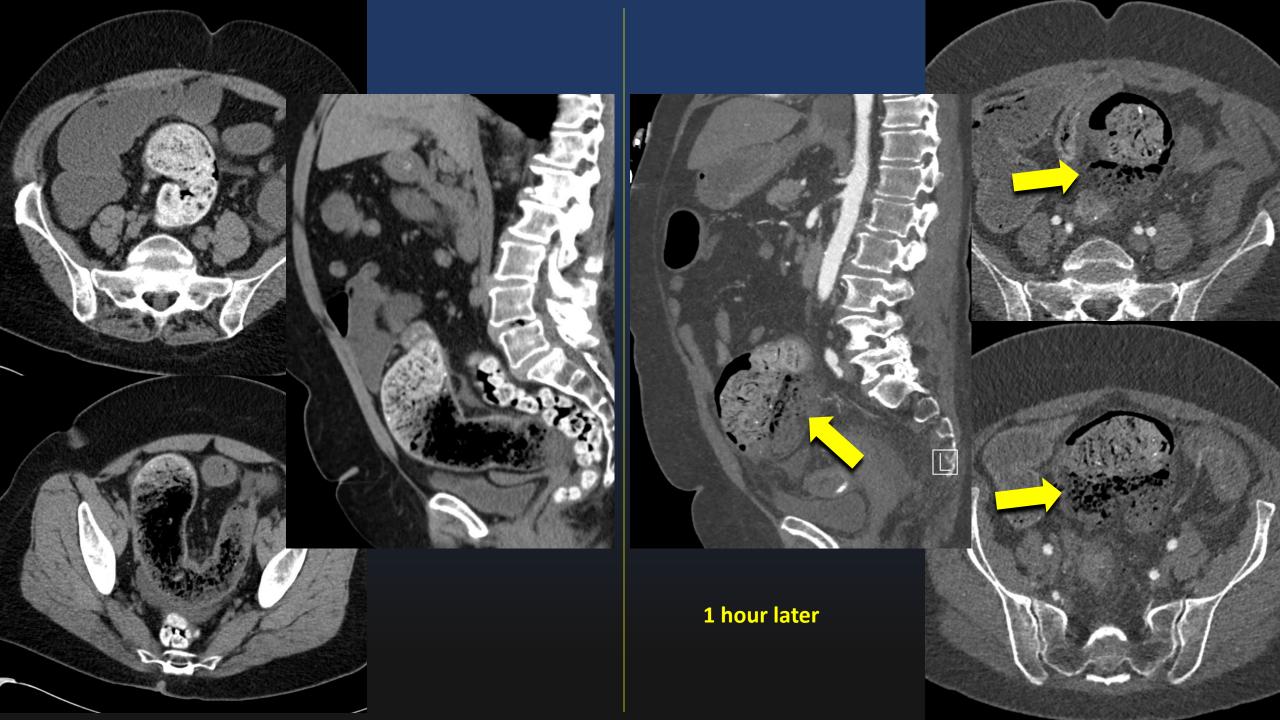
Perforation: Stercoral Colitis

Pressure necrosis from fecal impaction

Perforation uncommon but possible

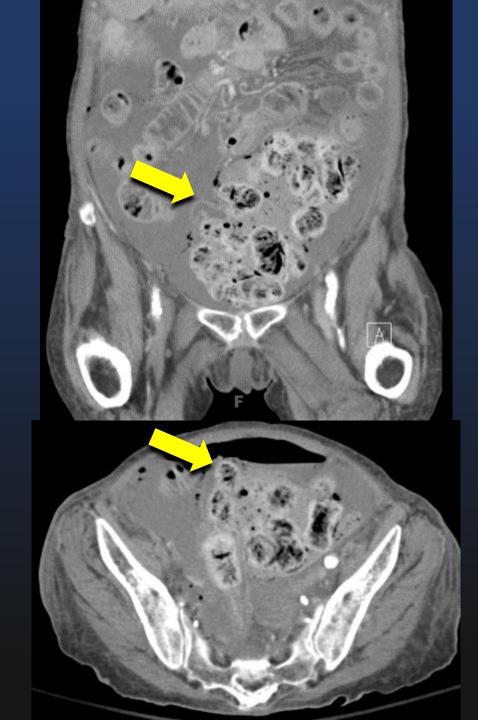
- Keys to diagnosis:
 - Impacted stool ball
 - Sigmoid or rectal wall thickening
 - Pericolonic inflammation



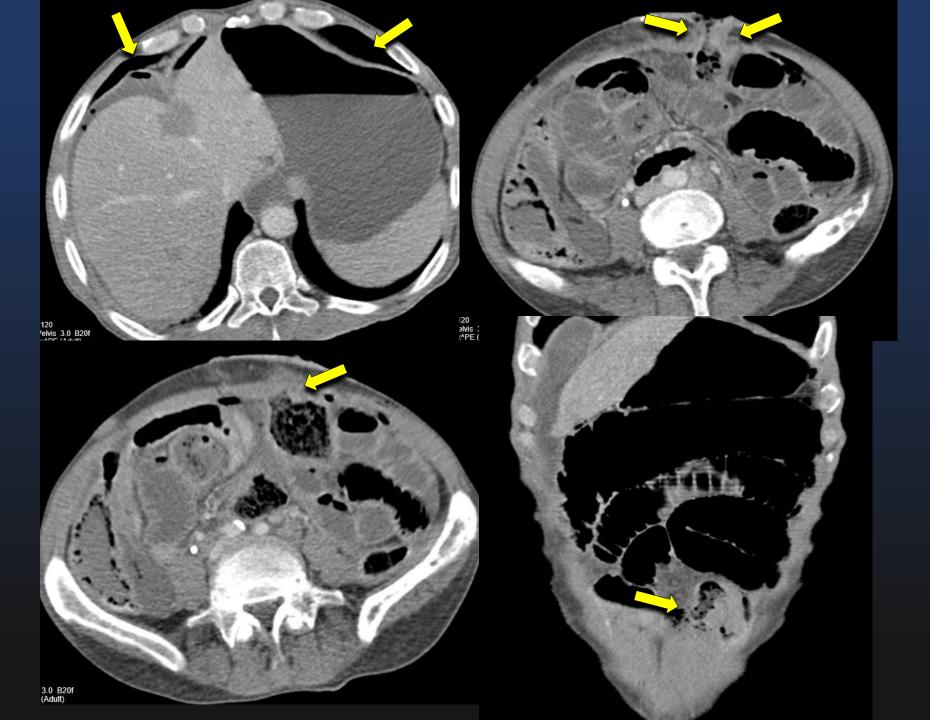






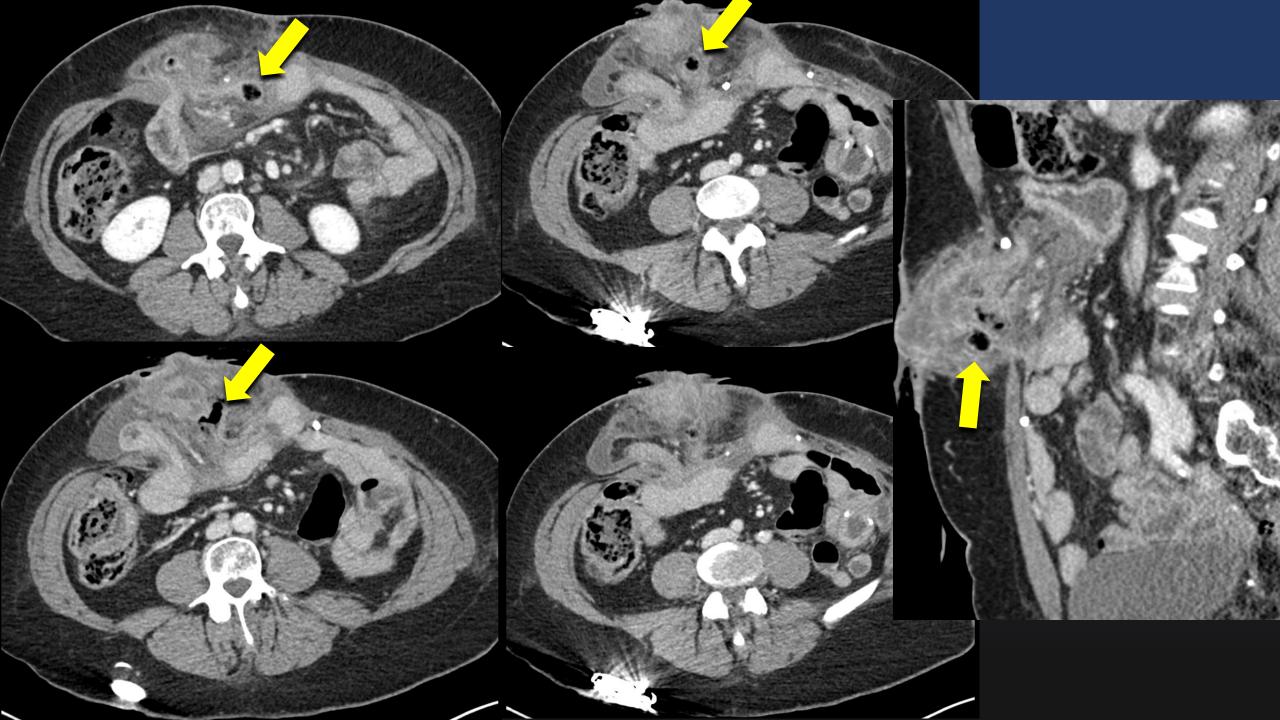


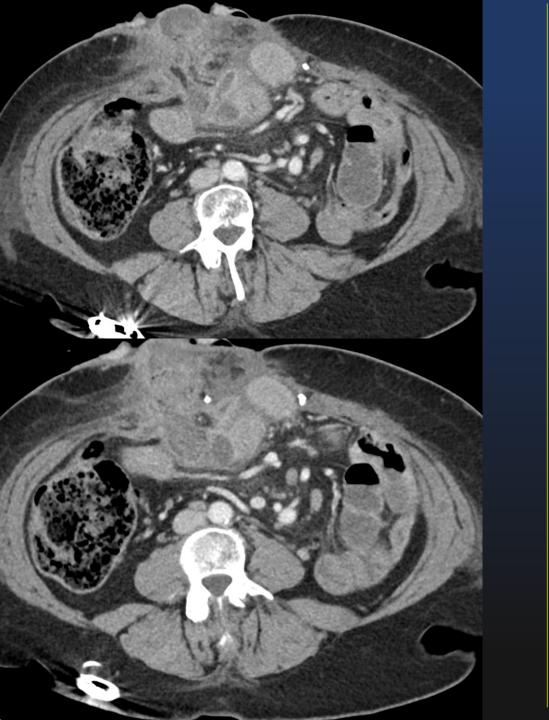
6 days post-op

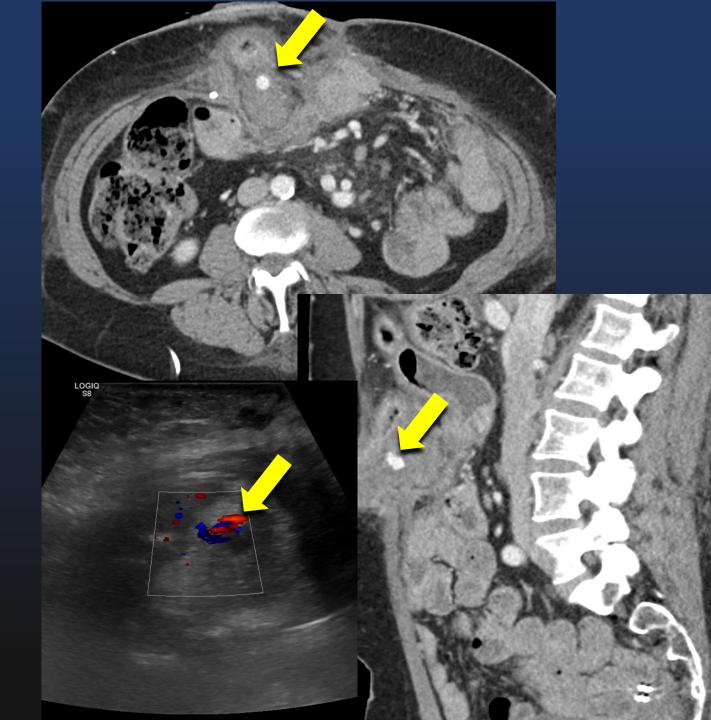


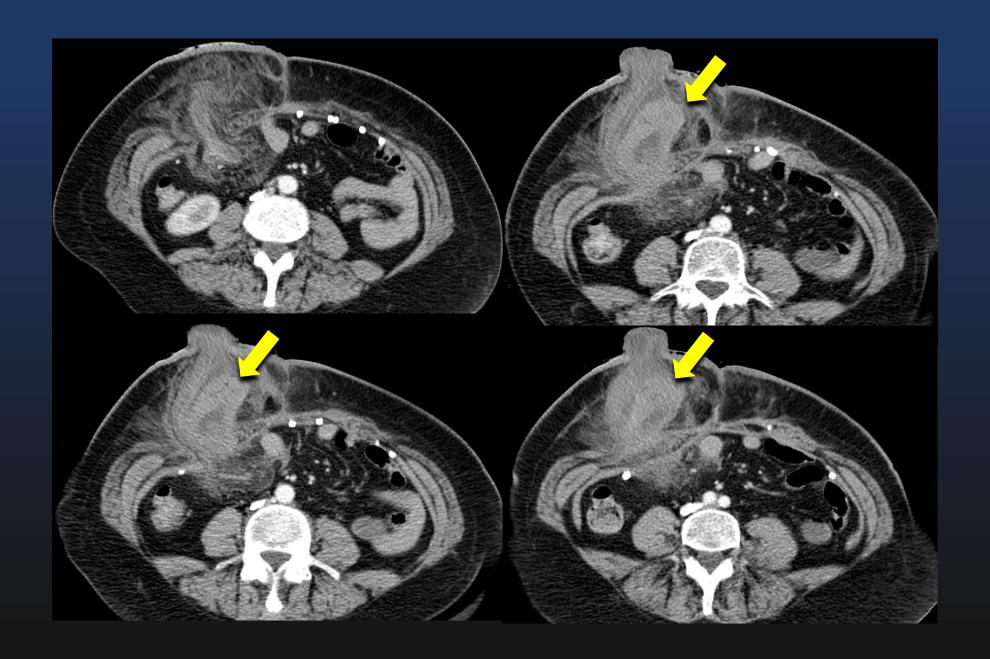
17 days post-op

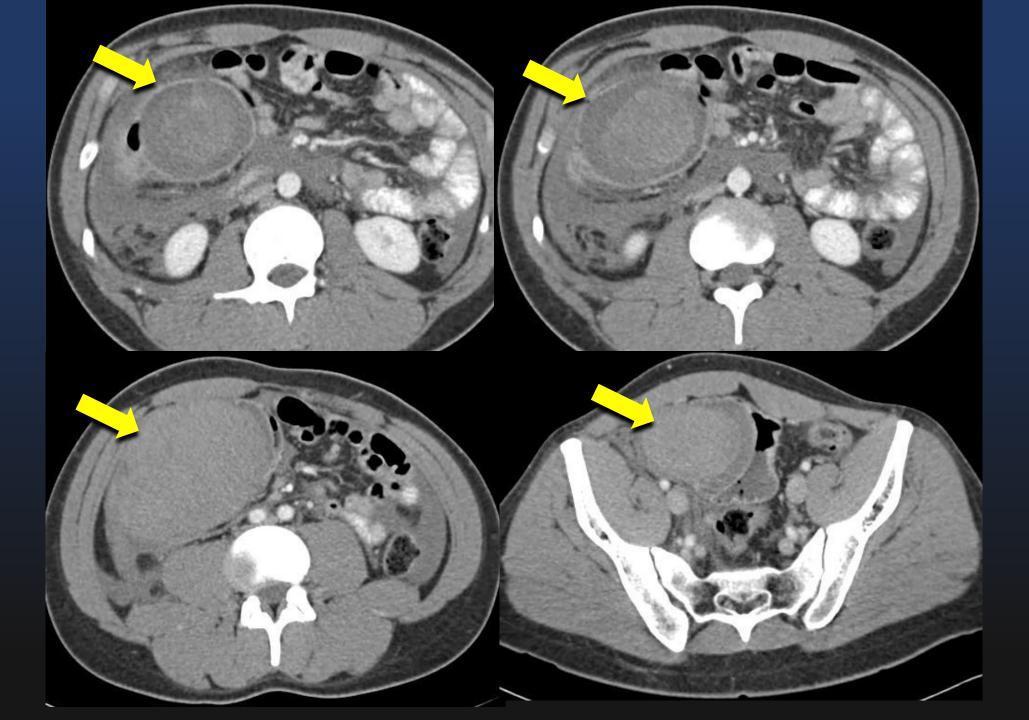


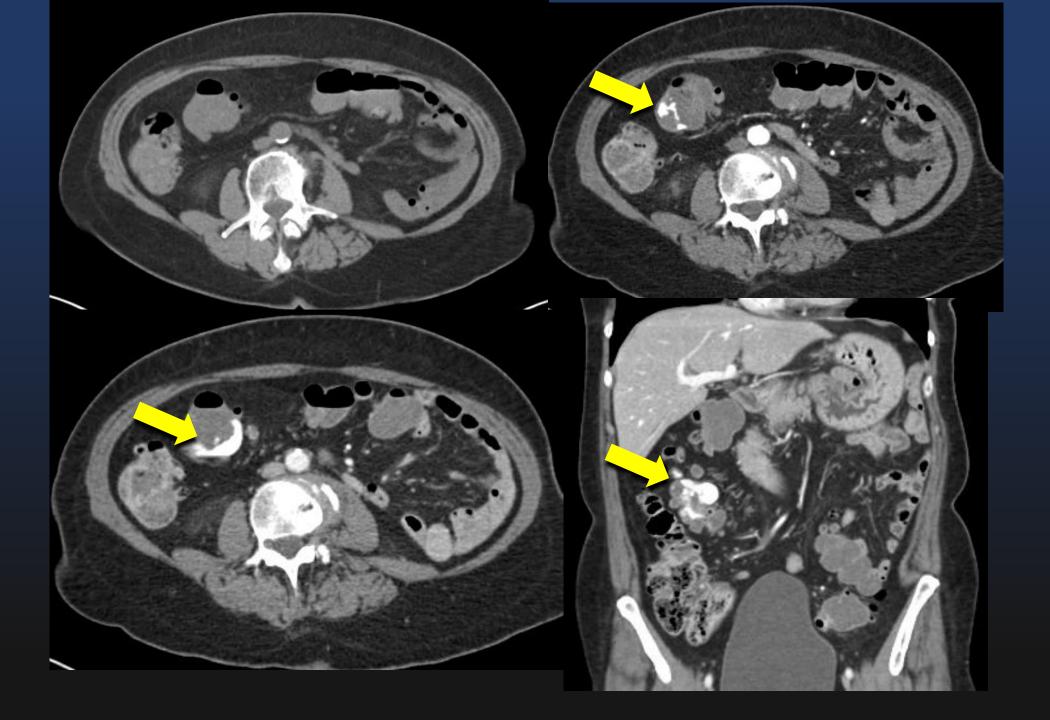






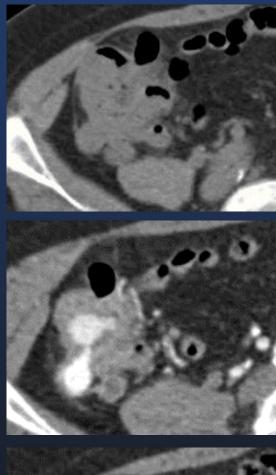




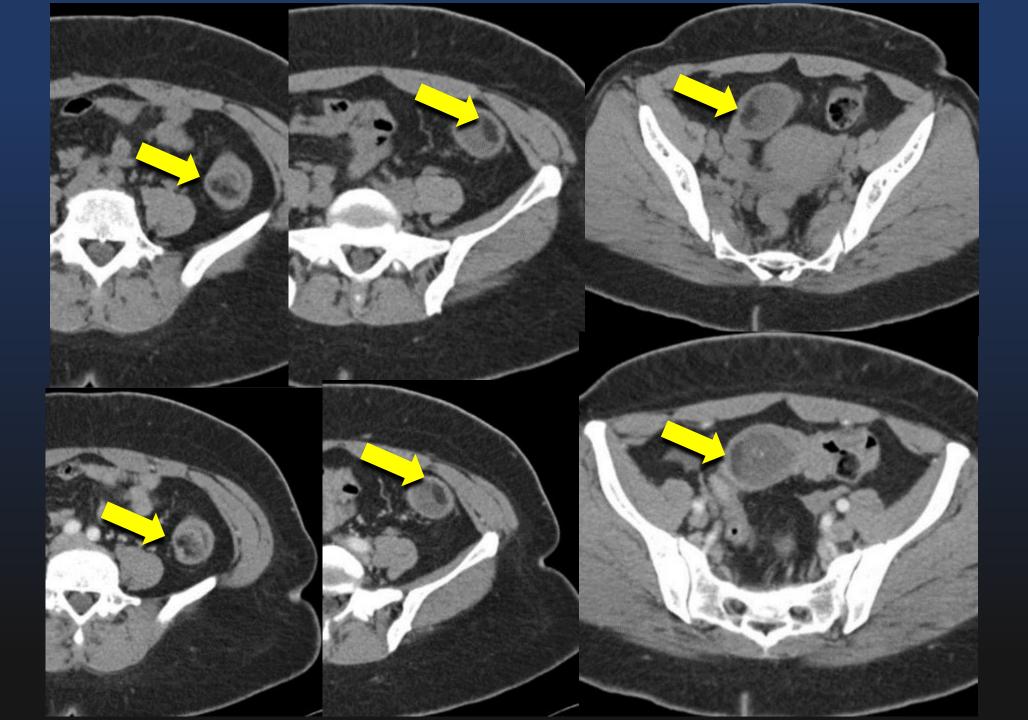


Colonic Hemorrhage

- Common causes:
 - Diverticulosis
 - Angiodysplasia
 - Neoplasms
 - Internal hemorrhoids
- Imaging modalities
 - Tagged RBC scintigraphy ~ 0.1-0.2 ml/min
 - Conventional angiography ~ 0.5 ml/min
 - CTA ~ 0.35ml/min
 - Capsule endoscopy







Conclusions

 Colonic wall thickening – attenuation, history, distribution, severity, ancillary findings

Ischemia – don't forget hemorrhage and "benign" pneumatosis

Obstruction – wall, course, and contents