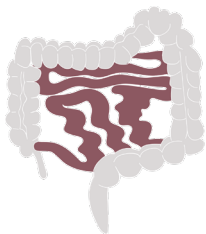


Gastrointestinal applications

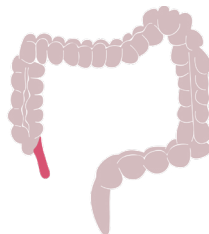
RECOGNIZING WHEN TO PERFORM GASTROINTESTINAL ULTRASOUND

Basic abdominal point-of-care ultrasound applications include evaluation of the aorta and kidneys, and assessment for free fluid.

Advanced applications include:



Small bowel obstruction



Appendicitis



Intussusception



Pyloric stenosis



Stomach contents

Advantages of performing these applications may include



Rapid diagnosis



Reduced radiation



Facilitate transfer

Caveats

These point-of-care studies work best if they are performed in patients with a high clinical concern for the disease, and not in all patients with abdominal pain, vomiting, or a gastrointestinal complaint. As with other advanced applications, there are several precautions to consider.

1. Interpret findings in the context of pre-test probability for a disease.
2. Specificity is typically higher than sensitivity.
3. Follow up imaging, including computed tomography (CT), is often required.