

If you suspect gallbladder disease press your fingers on the approximate location of the gallbladder while asking the patient to take a deep breath. If this produces pain then the patient is positive for Murphy's sign. ★

If you suspect your patient has appendicitis assess him for the following signs:

★McBurney's sign: Pain elicited when a spot that is situated on a line between the umbilicus and 1.5 cm. to 5 cm. (1/2 inch to 2 inches) above the right anterior superior iliac spine is pressed on.

Aaron's sign: Pain or distress occurring in the area of the patient's heart or stomach when McBurney's point is palpated.

Rovsing's sign: Pain in the right lower quadrant when you press on the left lower quadrant.

Psoas sign: Increasing pain occurring in the abdomen when he extends his right leg while lying on the left side, or when he flexes his leg while supine.

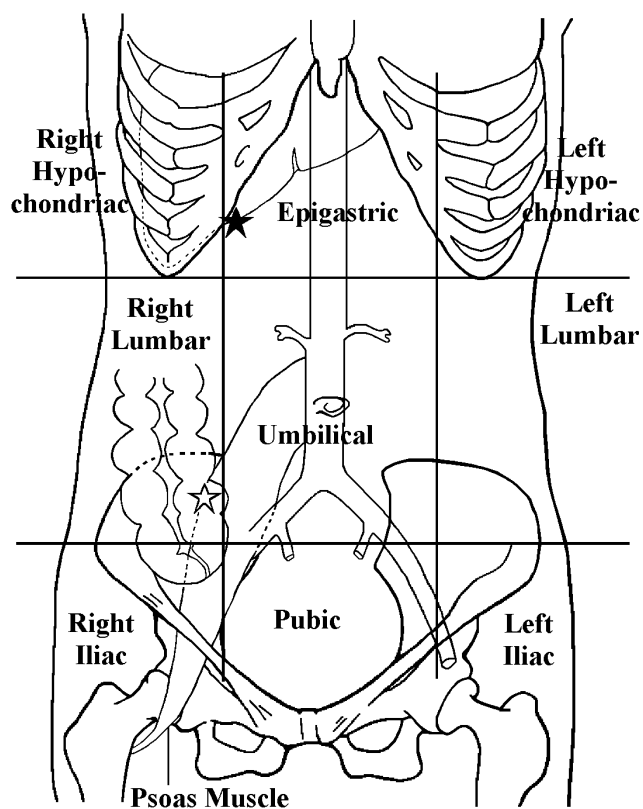
If you palpate a mass then note the following:
Size, location, consistency, contour, tenderness, and mobility.

Producing a fluid wave is not a reliable indication of ascites. To assess for a fluid wave ask another person to press the edge of the hand and forearm firmly along the vertical midline of the abdomen. This position helps stop transmission of a wave through adipose tissue. Place your hands on each side of the abdomen. Now tap one side sharply with your fingertips and feel for the fluid wave with the fingertips of your other hand.

Assessing an Ostomy

A normal stoma should appear red, similar in color to the mucosal lining of the inner cheek. Very pale or darker colored stomas indicate impaired circulation. Peristomal skin is the 5 to 13 cm (2 to 5 inches) of skin surrounding the stoma.

Abdominal Regions



Assessment of a Sump Tube

The PreVent anti-reflux filter allows stomach gas to exit and prevents mucosal damage during suctioning. It should be placed at the end of the blue pigtail on a sump tube. When gastric contents are seen in the lumen of the blue pigtail they should be cleared by injecting a minimum of 15cc of air by a syringe directly through the PreVent filter. Keep the pigtail raised above the level of the stomach to prevent reflux of gastric contents.