

Abdominal Pain, Child

Your child was seen today with abdominal pain. Abdominal or stomach pain can be caused by many things. Your caregiver decides the seriousness of the cause of the pain by an examination, and possibly blood tests and x-rays. Many cases can be observed and treated at home. Sometimes, a child's abdominal pain may appear to be a minor condition, but may become more serious. It is very important that you follow the instructions below.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS:

- Do not give laxatives unless directed by your caregiver.
- Give pain medication only if ordered by your caregiver.
- Start your child off with a clear liquid diet - broth, jello-water, or water as ordered by your caregiver. You may then slowly move to a bland diet as can be handled by your child.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- The pain does not go away or the abdominal pain increases.
- The pain stays in one portion of the *abdomen* (belly). Pain on the right side could be appendicitis.
- An oral temperature above 102° F (38.9° C) develops or as directed by your child's caregiver.
- Repeated vomiting occurs.
- Blood is being passed in stools (red, dark red, or black tarry stools).
- There is persistent vomiting for 24 hours (can't keep anything down) or blood is vomited.
- There is a swollen or bloated abdomen.
- Dizziness develops.
- Your child pushes your hand away or screams when their belly is touched.
- You notice extreme irritability in infants or weakness in older children.
- Your child develops new or severe problems or becomes dehydrated. Signs of this include:
 - No wet diaper in 4-5 hours in an infant.
 - No urine output in 6-8 hours in an older child.
 - Small amounts of dark urine.
 - Increased drowsiness.
 - The child is too sleepy to eat.
 - Dry mouth and lips or no saliva or tears.
 - Excessive thirst.
 - Your child's finger does not pink-up right away after squeezing.

