**Intestinal obstruction ( [bowel obstruction](http://www.webmd.com/digestive-disorders/tc/bowel-obstruction-topic-overview))**

happens when either[**small**](http://www.webmd.com/digestive-disorders/small-intestine)  or [**large intestine**](http://www.webmd.com/digestive-disorders/large-intestine) is **partly** or **completely** blocked. The blockage prevents food, fluids, and gas from moving through the [intestines](http://www.webmd.com/digestive-disorders/picture-of-the-intestines) in the normal way. The blockage may cause severe pain that comes and goes.

Without treatment, the blocked parts of the intestine can die, leading to serious problems. However, with prompt medical care, intestinal obstruction often can be successfully treated.

### What causes a bowel obstruction?

Intestinal obstructions are either the result of something blocking part of the intestine (mechanical obstruction) or a failure of the intestine to work properly (paralytic ileus). There’s a variety of causes of intestinal obstruction:

* a strangulated hernia,فتق مختنق which happens when part of small intestine protrudes through abdominal wall
* an inflammatory disease, التهابات الامعاءlike Crohn’s disease, in which swelling and scar tissue causes a narrowing of intestine
* adhesionsالتصاقات, or scar tissueندبة اندمال الجرح, from a previous abdominal surgery
* colon cancer in which the tumor blocks the intestine
* severe constipation
* gallstones,حصوة المرارة which can press against intestine and block the flow of its contents
* volvulus, التفافwhich is a twist in intestine
* intussusception, تداخلwhich occurs when one section of intestine collapses into another
* ingesting foreign objects, which is rare
* paralytic ileus, شلل الامعاءwhich is a condition that often happens after abdominal surgery in which intestine temporarily ceases يتوقفcontracting and moving its contents along

10 to 20 percent of small bowel obstructions are due to intestinal strangulation. This can cause gangrene to quickly develop in the colon.

**Signs and symptoms of intestinal obstruction include:**

* Crampyمغص abdominal pain that comes and goes
* Nausea
* Vomiting
* Diarrhea
* Constipation
* Inability to have a bowel movement or pass gas
* Swelling of the abdomen (distention)انتفاخ

### How is a bowel obstruction diagnosed?

### http://images-mediawiki-sites.thefullwiki.org/09/8/3/7/722361682086281.jpg

* History and clinical examination
* An abdominal [X-ray](http://www.webmd.com/hw-popup/x-ray), which can find blockages in the small and large intestines. [Radiological](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radiology) signs of bowel obstruction include bowel distension and the presence of multiple (more than six) gas-fluid levels on supine and erect abdominal [radiographs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radiographs)
* A [CT scan](http://www.webmd.com/hw-popup/ct-or-cat-scan)

Treatment

* An intestinal obstruction is a medical emergency that requires prompt medical treatment. Don’t attempt to treat the problem at home. The appropriate treatment depends on the type of intestinal obstruction.

 1-naso gastric tube.

 2-nothing by mouth

 3-Iv fluid to correct fluid and electrolyte balance for 6-8 houres. And prevent dehydration.

 4-surgery to remove obstruction.

Other treatments:

* antibiotics to reduce infection
* anti-emetics to keep you from vomiting
* pain relievers