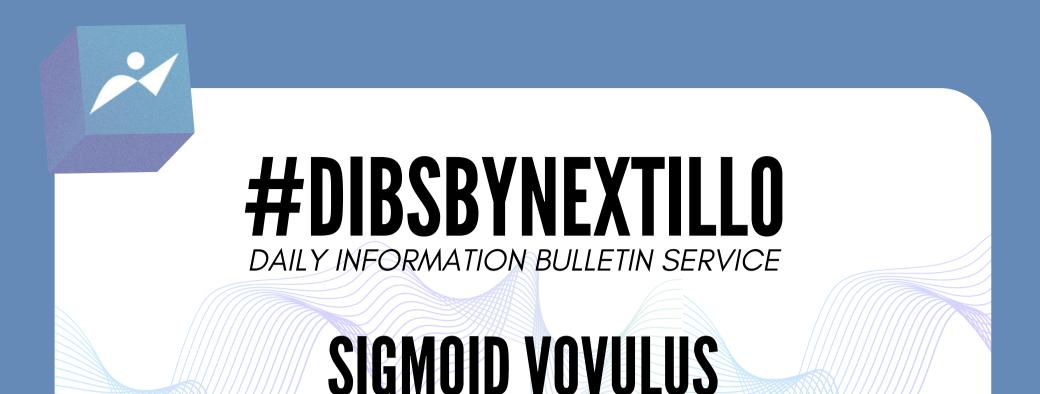




HIVINFORMATION BULLETIN SERVICE

SIGMOID VOVULUS

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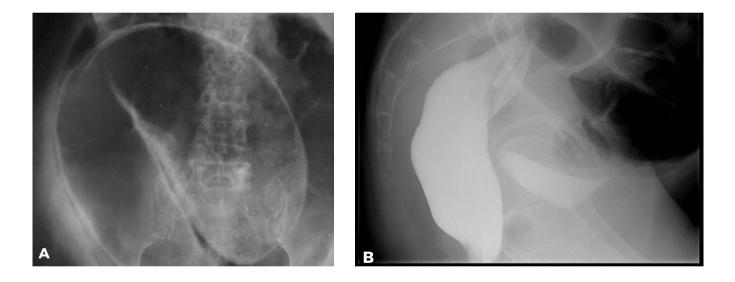


Sigmoid volvulus is a gastrointestinal emergency characterized by the twisting or rotation of the sigmoid colon around its own mesentery.

This rotation can lead to a closed-loop obstruction and compromise blood flow to the affected segment.







A) Coffee bean sign B) Bird beak sign



CLINICAL FEATURES

Abdominal Pain and Distention:

Gradual onset of abdominal pain and distention, often in the left lower quadrant.

Constipation and Obstipation:

Patients may report constipation, and obstipation (inability to pass gas or stool) can occur with a complete obstruction.

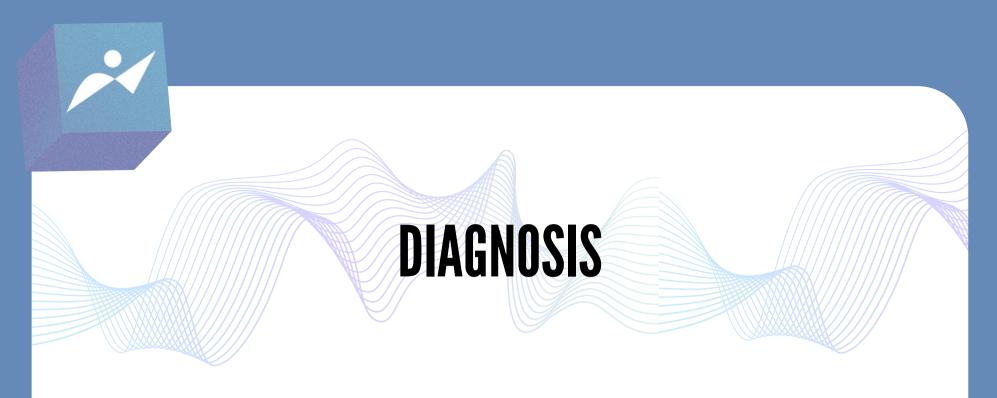
Nausea and Vomiting:

Nausea and vomiting may be present, reflecting the obstructive nature of the condition.

Abdominal Tenderness:

Tenderness over the sigmoid colon may be elicited on physical examination.





1. Abdominal X-ray:

- "Coffee bean" or "sigmoid-shaped" appearance on plain abdominal X-ray.
- Evidence of a distended sigmoid loop.

2. CT Scan:

• Can provide a more detailed assessment of the volvulus and its complications.

3. Barium Enema:

• Bird beak sign, ace of spade sign.



MANAGEMENT

1. Nonoperative Decompression:

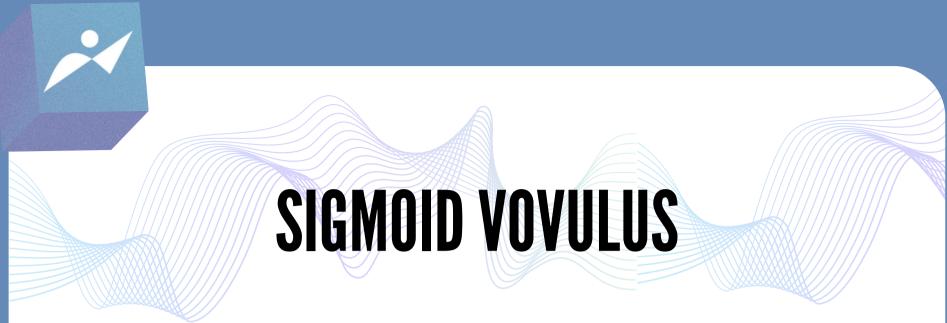
- A flexible tube is inserted to untwist the volvulus.
- A rectal tube may be used for decompression.

2. Surgical Intervention:

 Elective or emergency surgery is often required, especially if nonoperative measures fail or if there are signs of bowel ischemia.

 Surgical options include detorsion, sigmoidectomy, and colostomy.





Question :

A 65-year-old patient presents with abdominal pain, distention, and obstipation. Abdominal X-ray reveals a "coffee bean" appearance. What is the most likely diagnosis?

A) Appendicitis
B) Sigmoid Volvulus
C) Diverticulitis
D) Crohn's Disease

Answer: B) Sigmoid Volvulus

