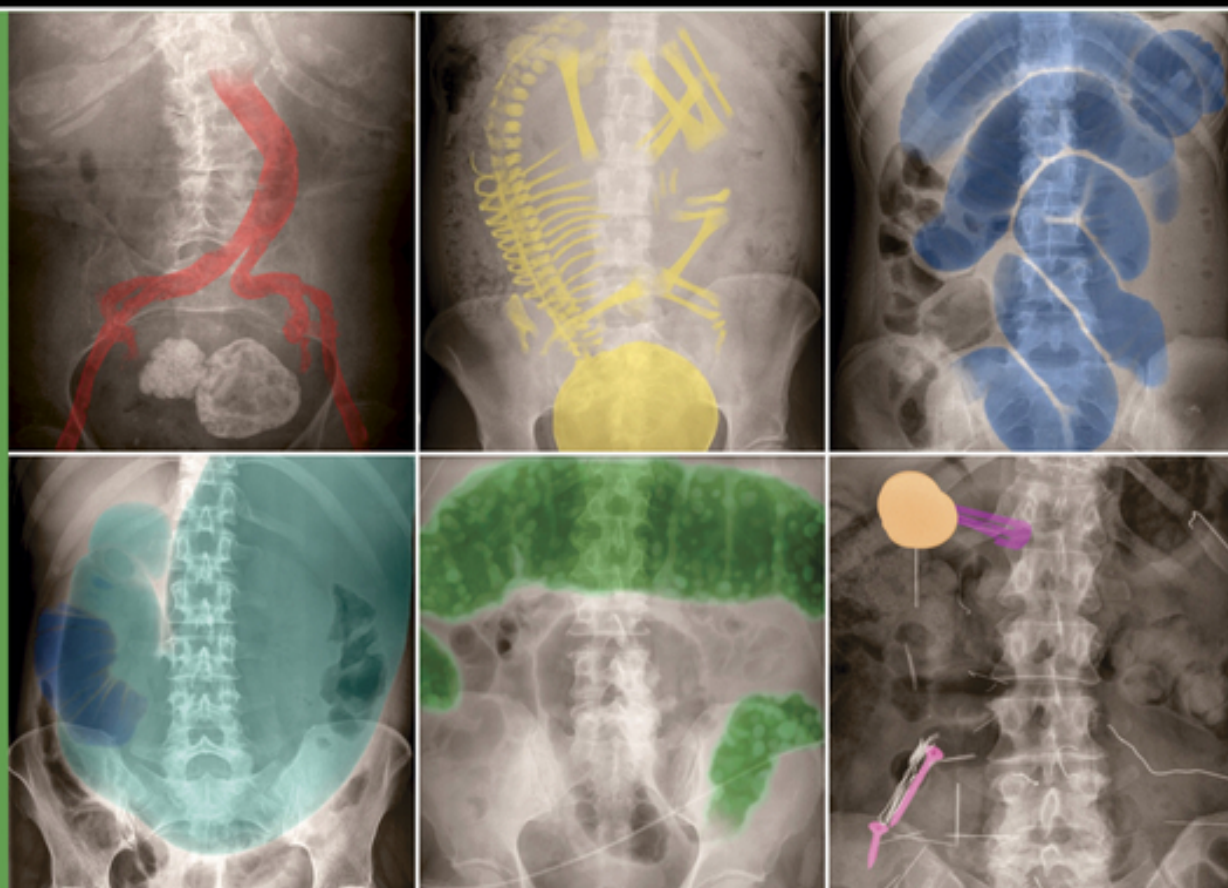


ABDOMINAL X-RAYS FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS



CHRISTOPHER CLARKE & ANTHONY DUX



WILEY Blackwell

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Presenting an abdominal radiograph

Be systematic!

Part 2

Overview of the ABCDE of abdominal radiographs

A – Air in the wrong place

B – Bowel

C – Calcification

D – Disability (bones and solid organs).

E – Everything else

A

Pneumoperitoneum (gas in the peritoneal cavity).

Pneumoretroperitoneum (gas in the retroperitoneal space).

Pneumobilia (gas in the biliary tree).

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Figure 53: Two identical abdominal radiographs showing a caecal volvulus. There is a rounded

comma-shaped loop of distended large bowel in the centre of the abdomen with a few haustra seen within. The remainder of the colon distal to the caecal volvulus (obstruction) is collapsed. The right radiograph shows the caecal volvulus marked in red.

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Figure 83: Two identical abdominal radiographs showing pancreatic calcification. There are multiple irregular foci of calcification projected over the midline in the rough shape of the pancreas. The right radiograph shows the pancreatic calcifications marked in yellow.

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Figure 86: Two identical abdominal radiographs showing AAA calcification. There is a large dilated vascular structure in the midline with wall calcification seen. The left wall is clearly seen; however, the right wall is more difficult to make out as it is projected over the lumbar spine. It measures over 3 cm in diameter. The right radiograph shows the AAA marked in red.

Figure 87: Two identical abdominal radiographs showing AAA calcification. There is a large dilated vascular structure in the midline with wall calcification seen. The left wall is clearly seen; however, the right wall is more difficult to make out as it is projected over the lumbar spine. It measures over 3 cm in diameter. The right radiograph shows the AAA marked in red.

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Figure 105: Two identical abdominal radiographs showing a Riedel's lobe (normal variant). The right lobe of the liver is enlarged and extends inferiorly. The right radiograph shows the enlarged liver marked in purple. (You can also see an ECG lead in the left upper quadrant).

Figure 106: Two identical abdominal radiographs showing a large soft tissue mass in the left lumbar region. There is a rounded soft tissue density in the region of the left kidney. In this case the underlying cause was a large renal cyst. The right radiograph shows the soft tissue mass marked in red.

Figure 107: Two identical abdominal radiographs showing a large soft tissue mass in the pelvis/central abdomen. There is a large soft tissue density arising from the pelvis and extending into the left upper quadrant. It is displacing the surrounding loops of bowel to the edge of the radiograph. In this case the underlying cause was a large ovarian cyst. The right radiograph shows the large pelvic/central abdominal mass marked in pink.

Chapter 12

Figure 108: Two different radiographs showing metallic cholecystectomy clips projected over the right upper quadrant in the region of the gallbladder. This is a very common finding as cholecystectomy is a common operation. Usually there are three clips, although there may be more.

Figure 109: Two different radiographs showing sterilisation clips projected over the pelvis. They have a distinctive appearance and there are usually one or two clips seen bilaterally (for each of the fallopian tubes). Often over time these clips migrate and can be seen elsewhere in the abdomen (e.g. under the liver) – this is not a problem.

Figure 110: A radiograph showing numerous surgical clips projected over the right upper quadrant. This appearance is typical for previous liver resection surgery.

Figure 111: A radiograph showing surgical staples projected over the midline from a recent midline laparotomy.

Figure 112: Two identical radiographs showing evidence of a right inguinal hernia repair. There are multiple helical coil fasteners projected over the right iliac fossa. The appearance of these small coils is characteristic and indicates the site of a previous hernia repair. The coils fasten a surgical mesh to the inside of the abdominal wall to cover any areas of weakness and prevent a hernia. The mesh is not normally visualised on an abdominal radiograph. The right radiograph shows the rough position of the hernia mesh repair marked in orange.

Figure 113: Eight different radiographs of bowel anastomoses. They may be tricky to visualise as they are very small and not particularly dense. They appear as a curly line of multiple tiny clips and indicate the site of a bowel anastomosis. In a few of the radiographs the bowel anastomoses are very difficult to visualise so are marked with white arrows.

Figure 114: Two identical abdominal radiographs showing a urinary catheter in situ. There is a tube projected over the lower pelvis with its tip projected over the position of the urinary bladder. The right radiograph shows the urinary catheter marked in purple.

Figure 115: Two identical abdominal radiographs showing a supra-pubic catheter in situ. There is a tube projected over the lower pelvis with its tip pointing inferiorly and projected over the position of the urinary bladder. The right radiograph shows the supra-pubic catheter marked in purple.

Figure 116: Two identical abdominal radiographs showing a nasogastric (NG) tube in situ. There is a tube projected over the upper abdomen in the region of the stomach. The right radiograph shows the NG tube marked in purple and the approximate position of the stomach marked in brown.

Figure 117: Two identical abdominal radiographs showing a nasojejunal (NJ) tube in situ. There is a tube projected over the upper and mid abdomen, following the curve of the duodenum with its tip to the left of the midline in the region of the proximal jejunum. The right radiograph shows the NJ tube marked in purple and the approximate position of the stomach marked in brown.

Figure 118: Two identical radiographs showing a flatus tube in situ. There is a large tube projected over the pelvis and lower abdomen, following the path of the rectum and sigmoid colon. The right radiograph shows the flatus tube marked in purple. (You can also see dilated loops of large bowel.)

Figure 119: Two identical radiographs showing a simple surgical drain in the pelvis. There is a tube projected over the right pelvis in keeping with a pelvic drain. The right radiograph shows the surgical drain marked in purple. (You can also see midline surgical staples from recent surgery.)

Figure 120: Two identical abdominal radiographs showing a left-sided nephrostomy catheter in situ. There is a left-sided 'pigtail' nephrostomy catheter with a coiled tip (like a pig's tail) projected over the region of the left kidney. The right radiograph shows the left sided nephrostomy catheter marked in purple and the approximate position of the left kidney (not seen clearly) marked with a white dashed line.

Figure 121: Two identical abdominal radiographs showing a peritoneal dialysis catheter. The coiled tip is seen projected over the pelvis. The right radiograph shows the peritoneal dialysis catheter marked in purple.

Figure 122: Two identical abdominal radiographs showing a gastric band device in situ. The inflatable ring is projected over the epigastric region (in the correct orientation) and tubing is seen connecting the inflatable ring to the access port. The inflatable ring and tubing are marked in orange and the access port is marked in pink. The approximate position of the stomach is marked in brown.

Figure 123: Two identical abdominal radiographs showing a gastrostomy tube in situ. The tubing seen across the lower part of the radiograph is outside the patient, the triangular fixation device is on the skin at the point of entry and the circular tip is within the stomach. The right radiograph shows the gastrostomy marked in orange, the triangular skin fixation device marked in pink and the approximate position of the stomach marked in brown.

Figure 124: Two identical radiographs of the right lower quadrant showing a stoma bag. There is a dense ring projected over the right lower quadrant in keeping with the skin attachment of the stoma bag. The stoma itself is seen as a dense opacity within the ring of the stoma bag. The stoma bag is marked in pink and the stoma itself is marked in red.

Figure 125: Three different radiographs of the right upper quadrant showing examples of biliary stents. They are placed within the common bile duct and/or hepatic ducts and are usually projected just to the right of the midline in the upper abdomen. The left radiograph shows a metal stent, the middle shows a plastic stent and the right both a metal and plastic stent in situ.

Figure 126: Two identical abdominal radiographs showing a JJ stent in the right ureter. The proximal end is coiled in a loop in the renal pelvis and the distal end is coiled in a loop in the urinary bladder. The 'JJ' in JJ stent refers to the fact that there is a small coil at each end. The right radiograph shows the JJ stent marked in purple, the outline of the right kidney (1) marked with a white dashed line and the approximate outline of the urinary bladder (2) also marked with a white dashed line.