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Diverticulitis—Here are the Answers



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What is diverticulosis?

Many people have small pouches in their colon (large intestine) that bulge outward creating what is called a diverticulum. This condition is also known as "diverticulosis." The condition becomes more common with age and about 10 percent of Americans over the age of 40 have diverticulosis.



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What does diverticulitis feel like?

Patients have described the symptoms of diverticulitis as a "dull" and other times "intense" pain. It can even be a "debilitating" type of pain with an unpredictable clinical pattern.



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How common is diverticulitis?

The condition accounts for millions of clinic visits and hundreds of thousands of hospital admissions every year.



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What causes diverticulitis?

It is poorly understood what causes diverticulitis. It was once thought that diverticulitis was due to a "polymicrobial" (many types of bacteria) infection in a diverticular "micro-perforation." This is now questioned.



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