

# Gut Punch: Pediatric Abdominal Trauma



# Disclosures

None

## FACTS ABOUT

More info: [chnkeyclub.org](http://chnkeyclub.org)

# PEDIATRIC TRAUMA

90% of these  
unintentional  
injuries **CAN**  
be prevented



Among children ages 14 and under, it is estimated that 40% of deaths and 50% of nonfatal unintentional injuries occur in and around the home.

Everyday, 39,000+ children are injured seriously enough to require medical care



Equalling to roughly 14 million children per year

Unintentional injury kills more children than any other cause

including disease, homicide, suicide, and more



Children ages 4 and under are at greater risk, accounting for 45% of death among ages 14 and under

Majority of childhood injuries occur between

May and August





# Mechanisms of Injury

- Motor vehicle crashes
- Falls
- Lap belt complex
- Sport injuries
- NAT









The NEW ENGLAND  
JOURNAL of MEDICINE

CORRESPONDENCE

## Current Causes of Death in Children and Adolescents in the United States

April 20, 2022

DOI: 10.1056/NEJMc2201761



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# Guns Became Leading Cause of Death for Children and Teens in 2020

An analysis of CDC data found that gun-related injuries rose to the leading cause of death in the early days of the coronavirus pandemic.

# Primary Survey – Early Life Threats

## Airway

- Obstruction
- ↓GCS
- Airway injury

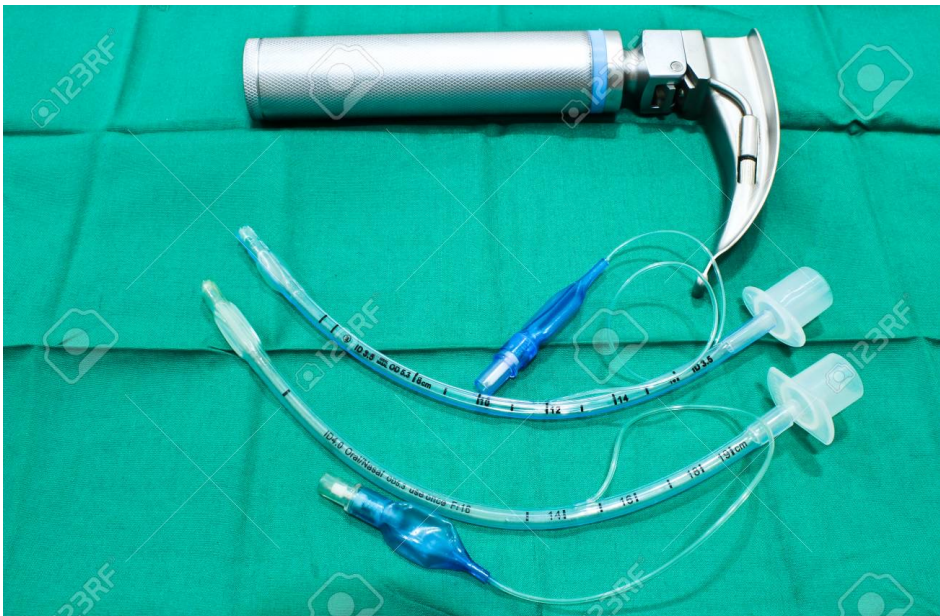
## Breathing

- Tension PTx
- Open PTx
- Flail
- Diaphragm rupture
- Ventilation failure

## Circulation

- Haemorrhage
  - External
  - Concealed
- Tamponade
- Anaphylaxis
- Neurogenic shock

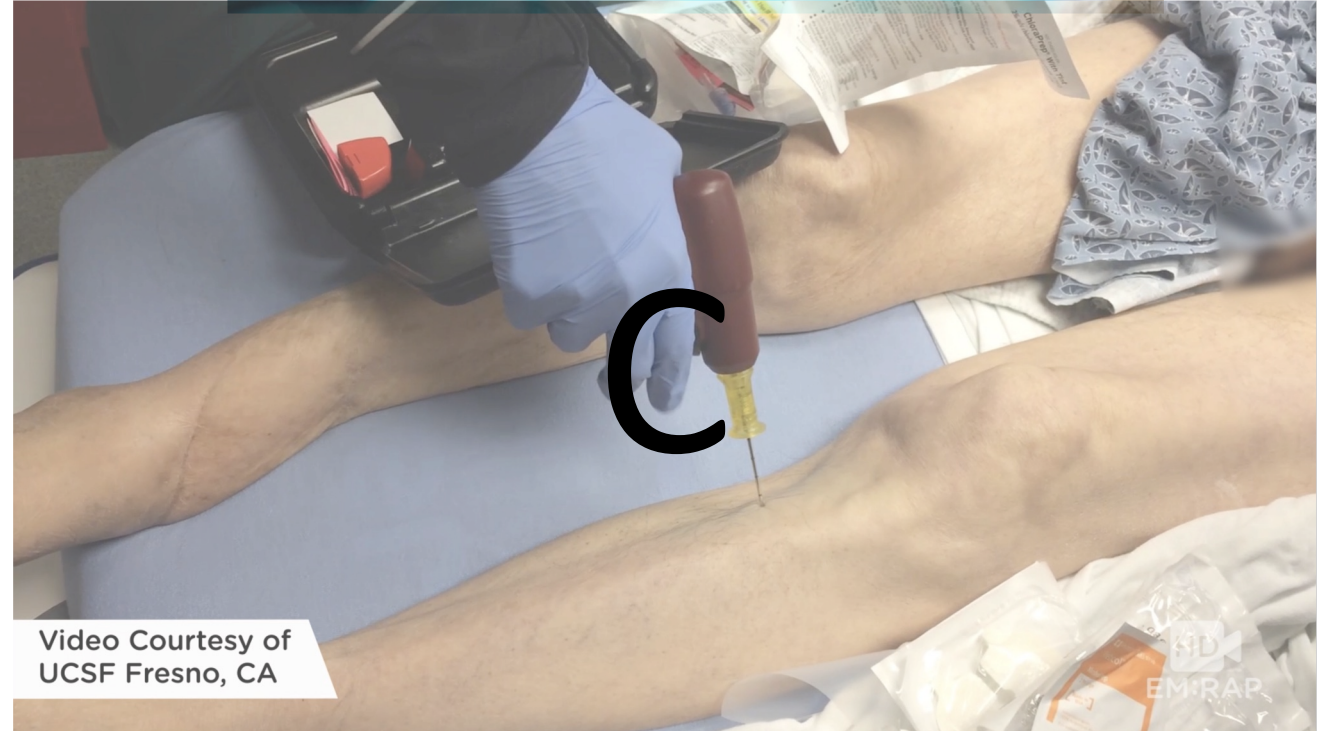
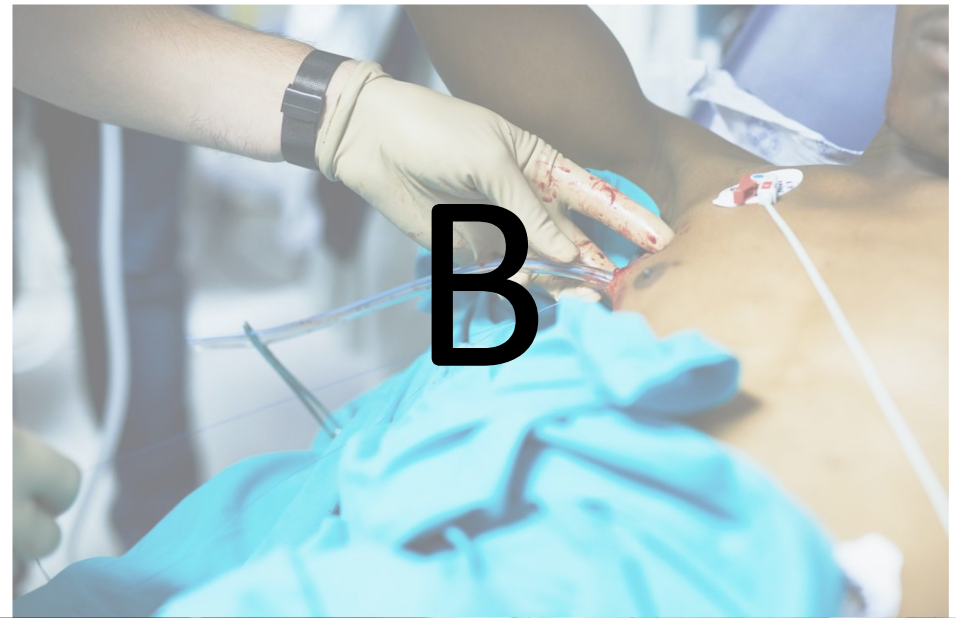
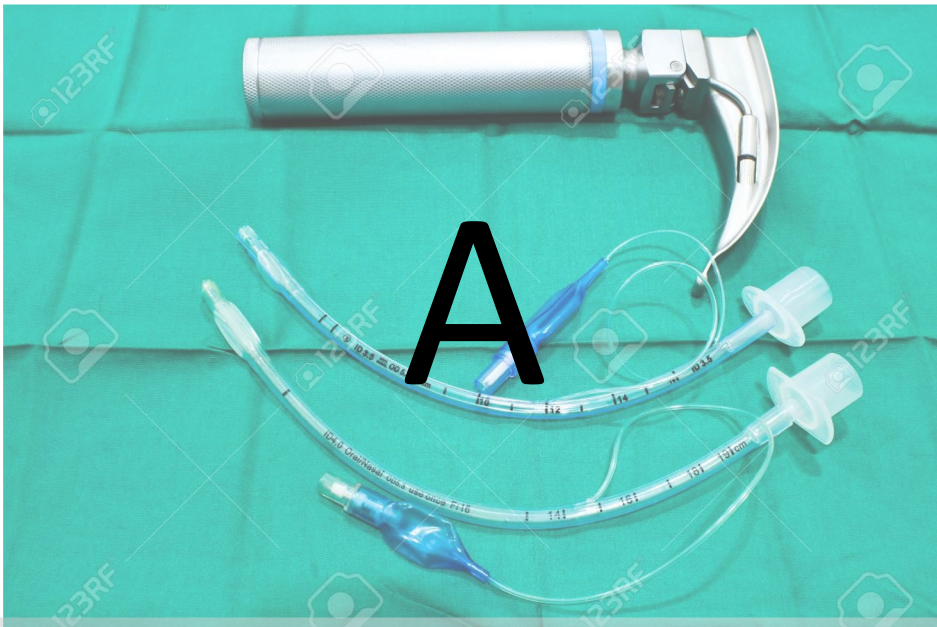




Video Courtesy of UCSF Fresno, CA







Video Courtesy of  
UCSF Fresno, CA

EMIRAP







# Mythical reasons to CT prior to transfer

- The information will help me continue to manage the patient
- I should not transfer a patient without knowing all of the injuries involved
- It will make transfer safer
- It will help the receiving center care for the patient
- It will speed up the care at the receiving center

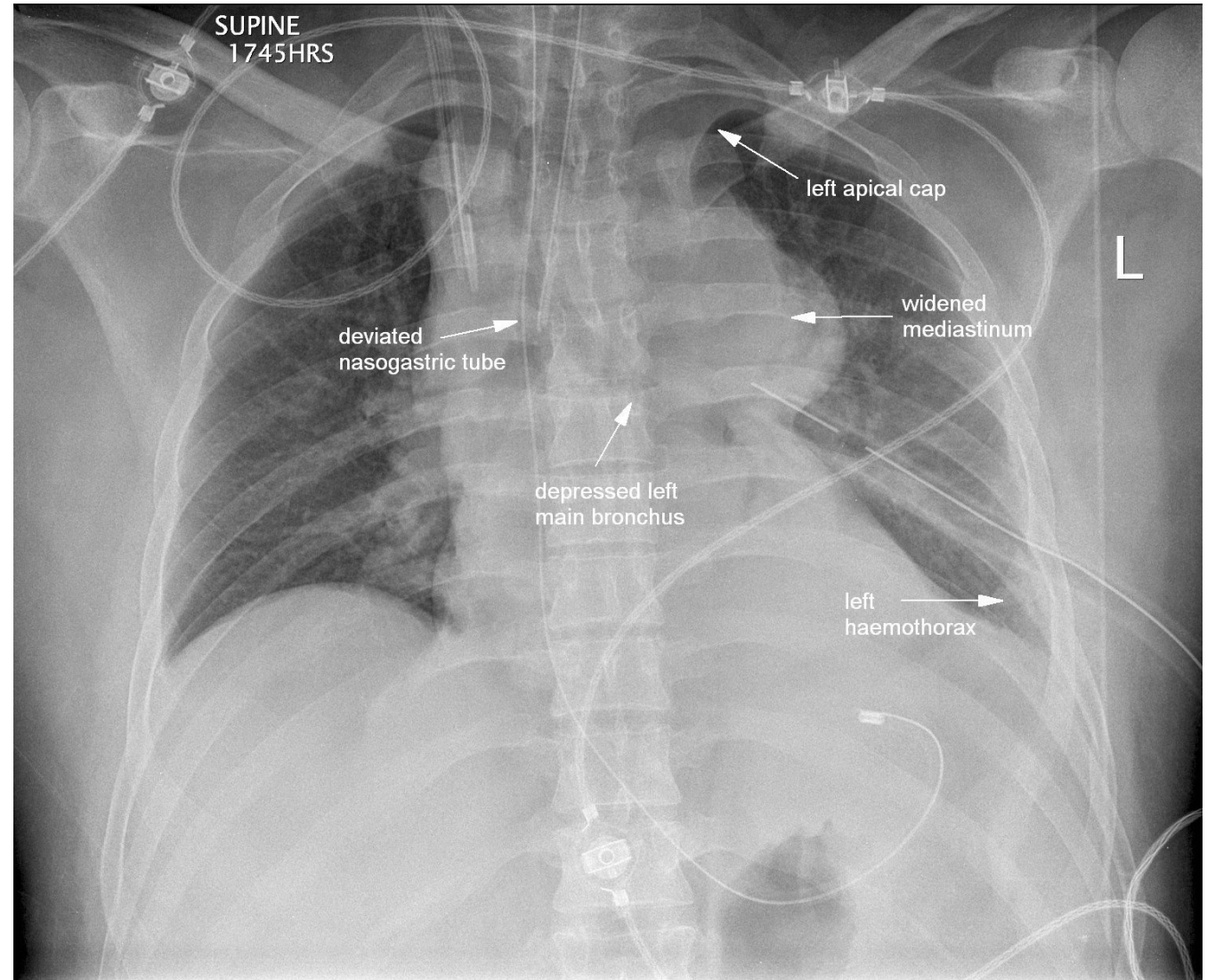


According to ATLS what is the only mandatory imaging necessary prior to transfer for ANY trauma patient?

1. CT of the Head
2. CT of the chest and abdomen
3. Plain cervical spine films
4. Plain films of the pelvis
5. Plain AP chest x-ray

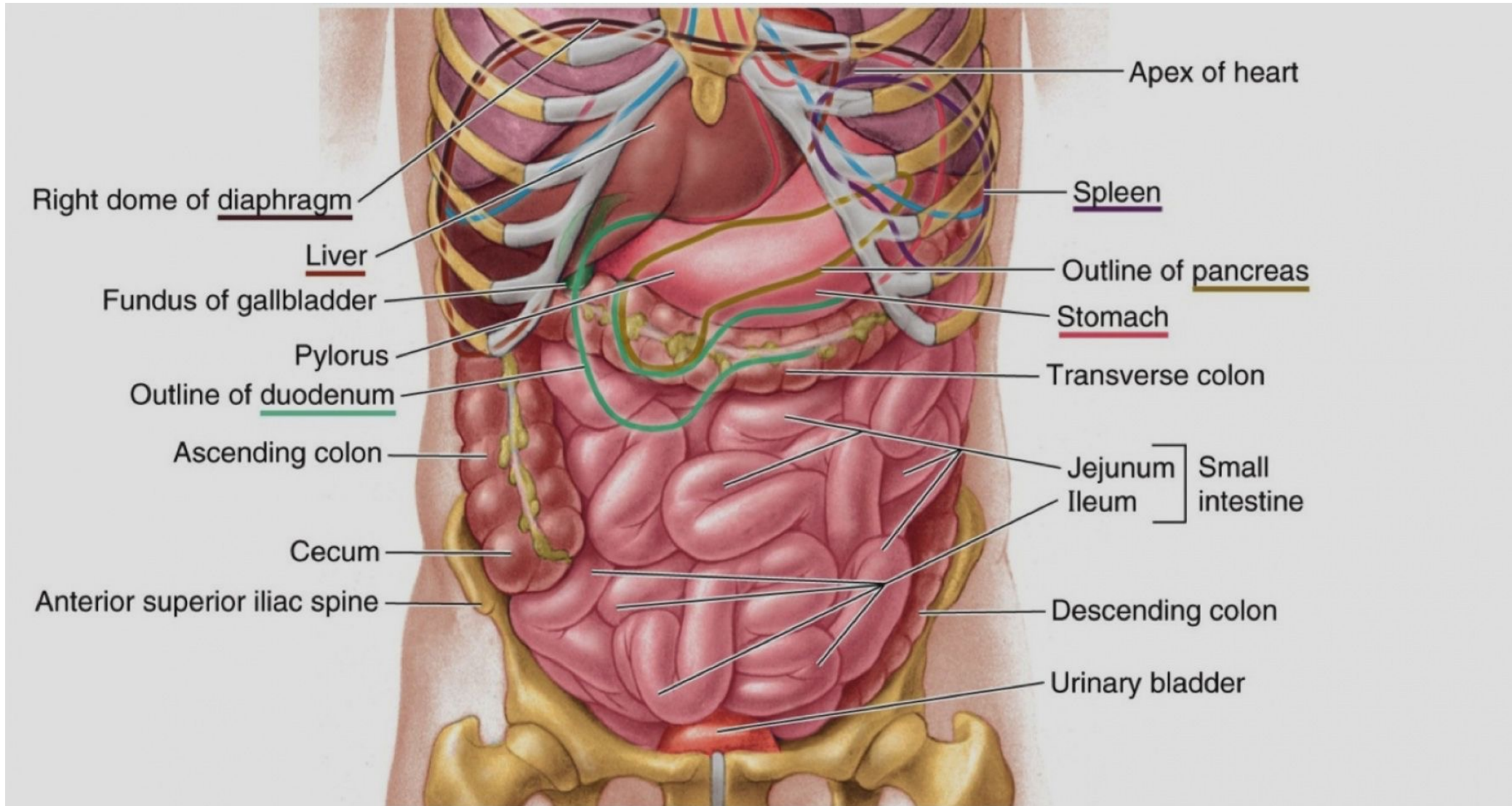
According to ATLS what is the only mandatory imaging necessary prior to transfer for ANY trauma patient?

## 5. Plain AP chest x-ray





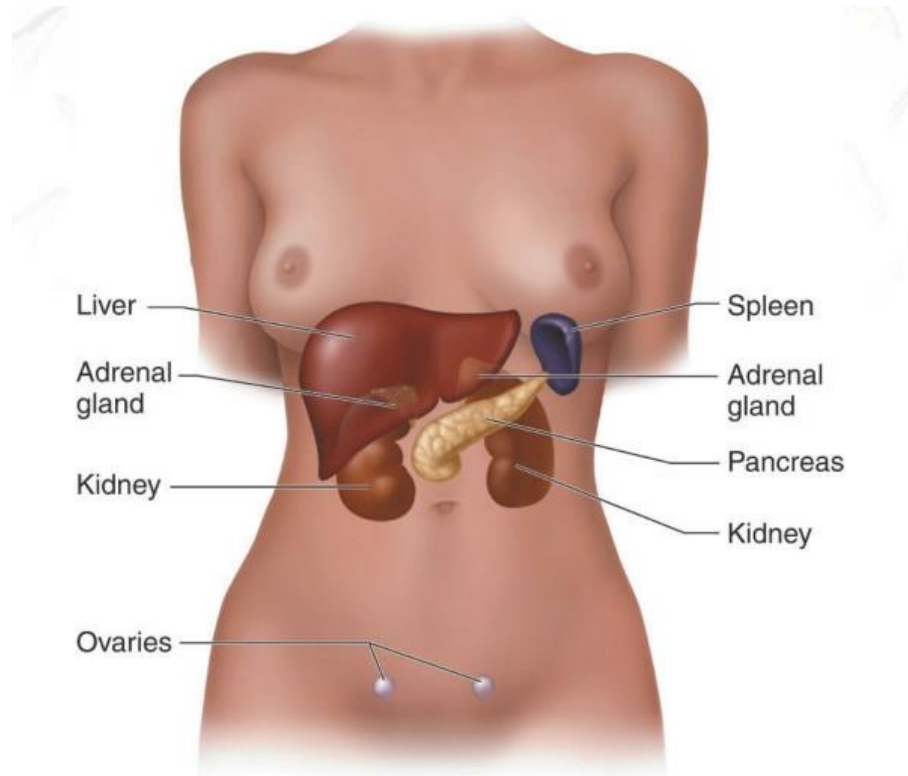
# What could be injured?



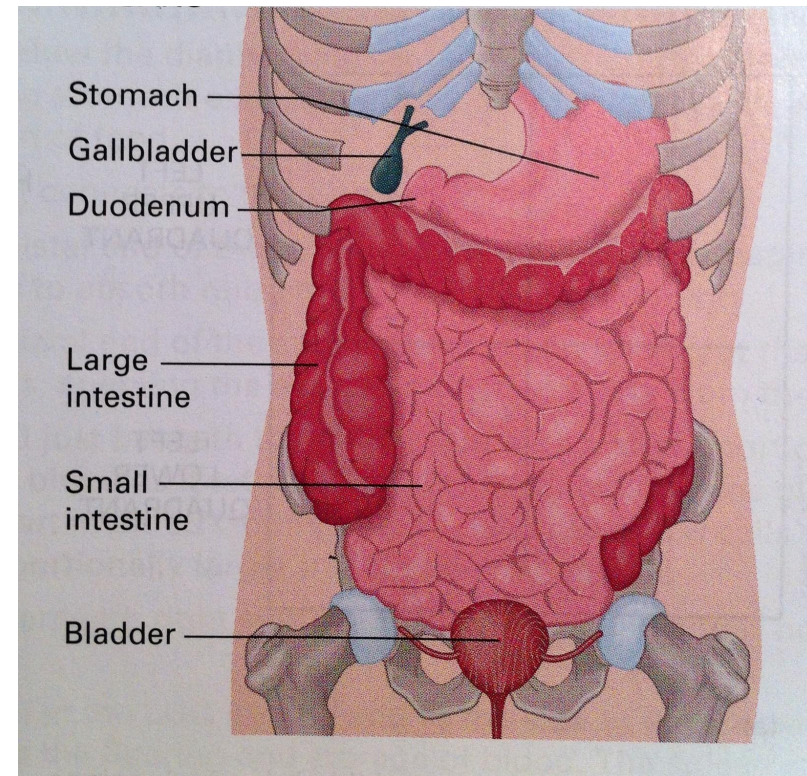
(A) Anterior view

# What could be injured?

## Solid organs



## Hollow organs



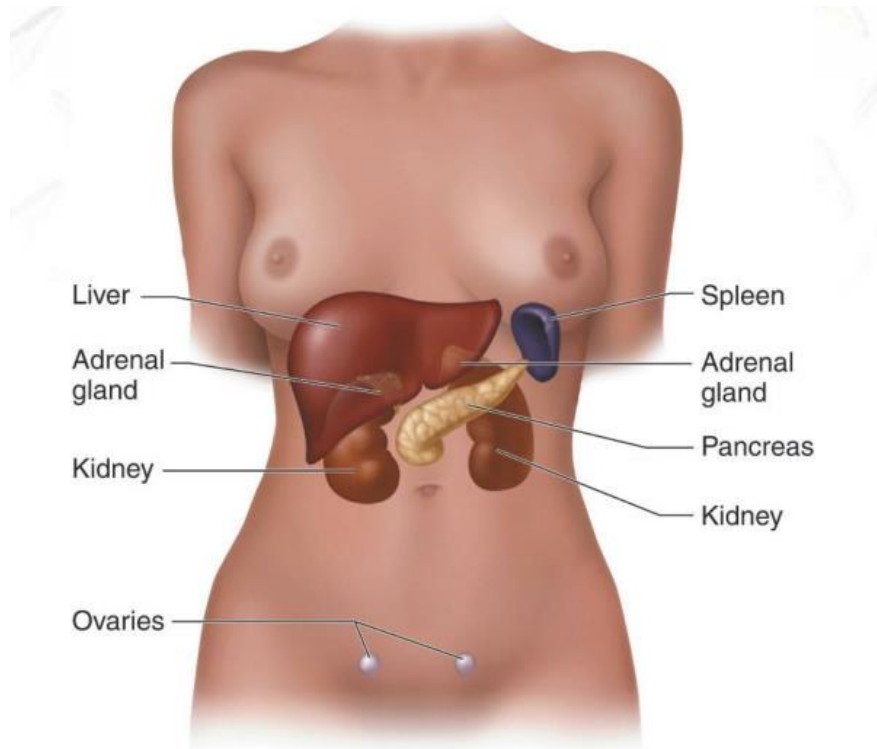


# What could be injured?

## Solid organs

Far More *Commonly* injured

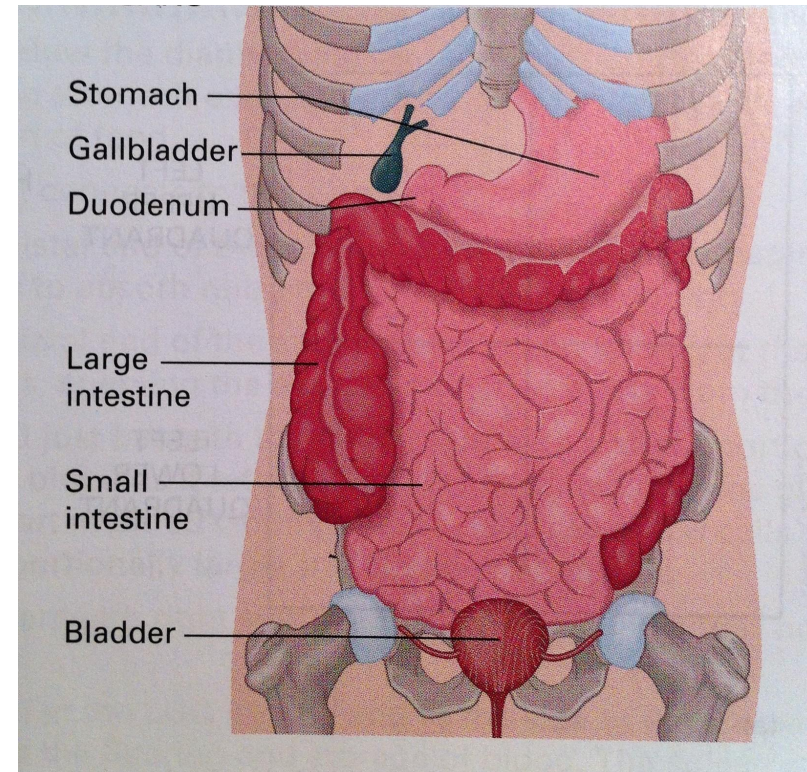
Potential early threat



## Hollow organs

*Uncommonly* injured

Usually a delayed threat

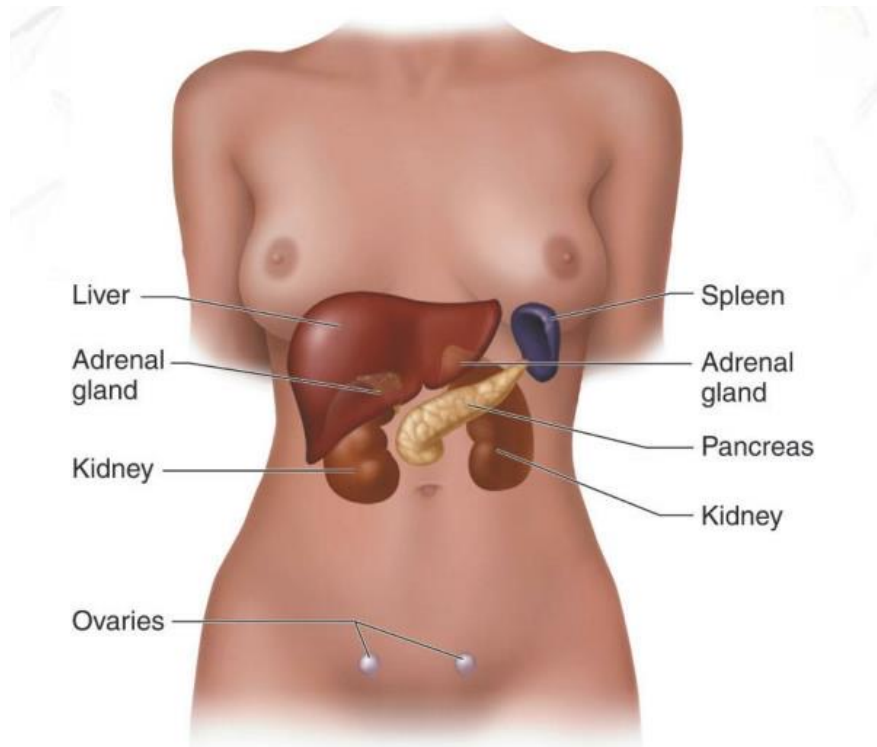


# What could be injured?

## Solid organs

Can be immediately identified by CT (Pancreas excepted)

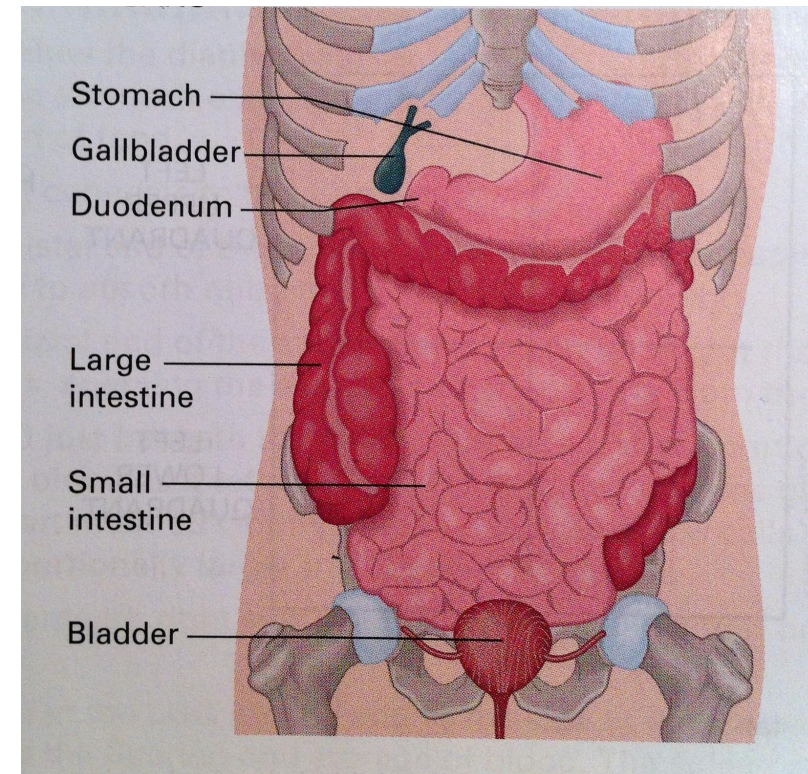
*Rarely requires operation*



## Hollow organs

Challenging Imaging diagnosis.  
(false negatives common)

*Almost always requires operation*





Immediate issue  
with solid organ  
injury

- **Bleeding\***

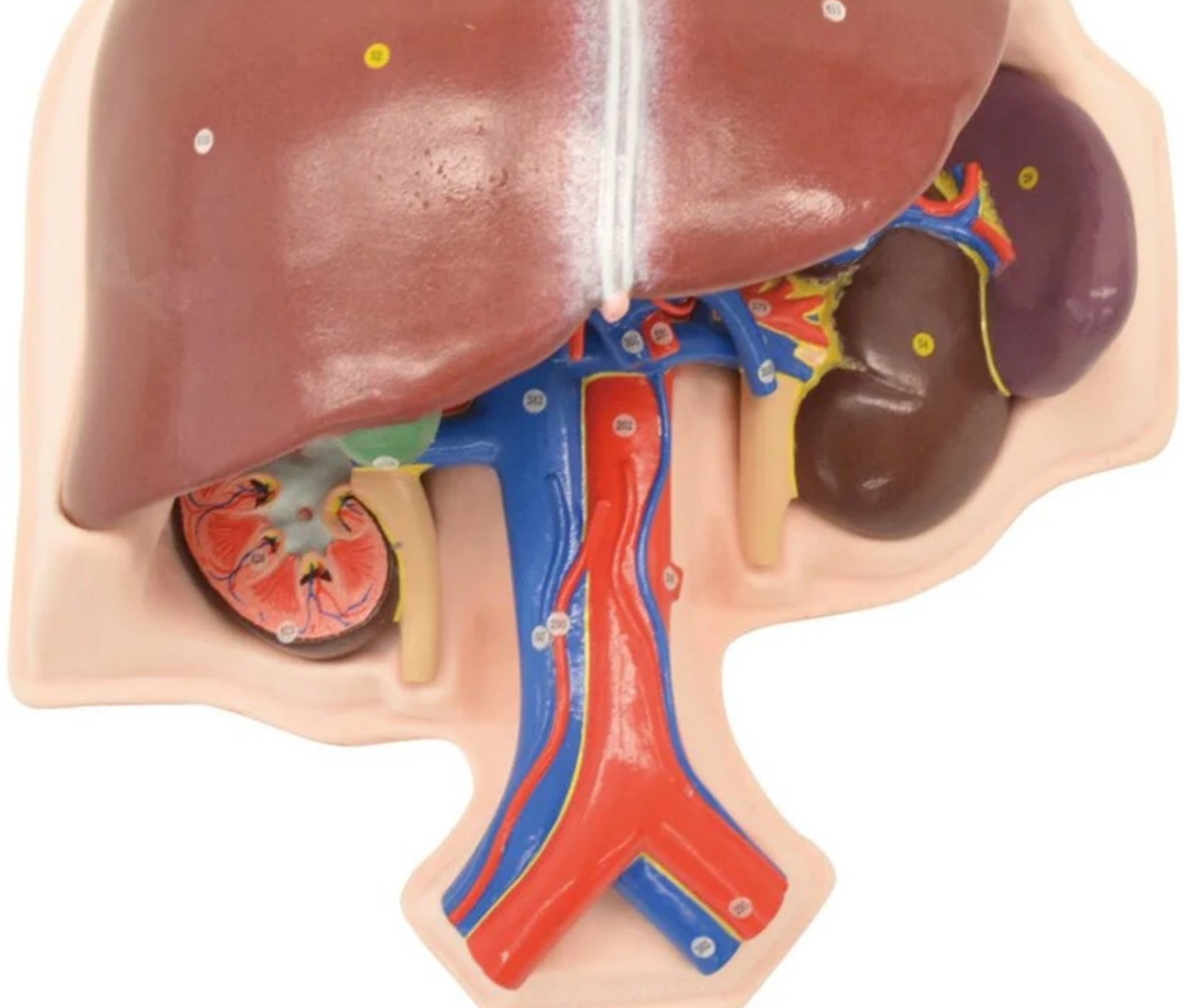


\*Pancreas is exception



**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
REMEMBER  
ATLS**

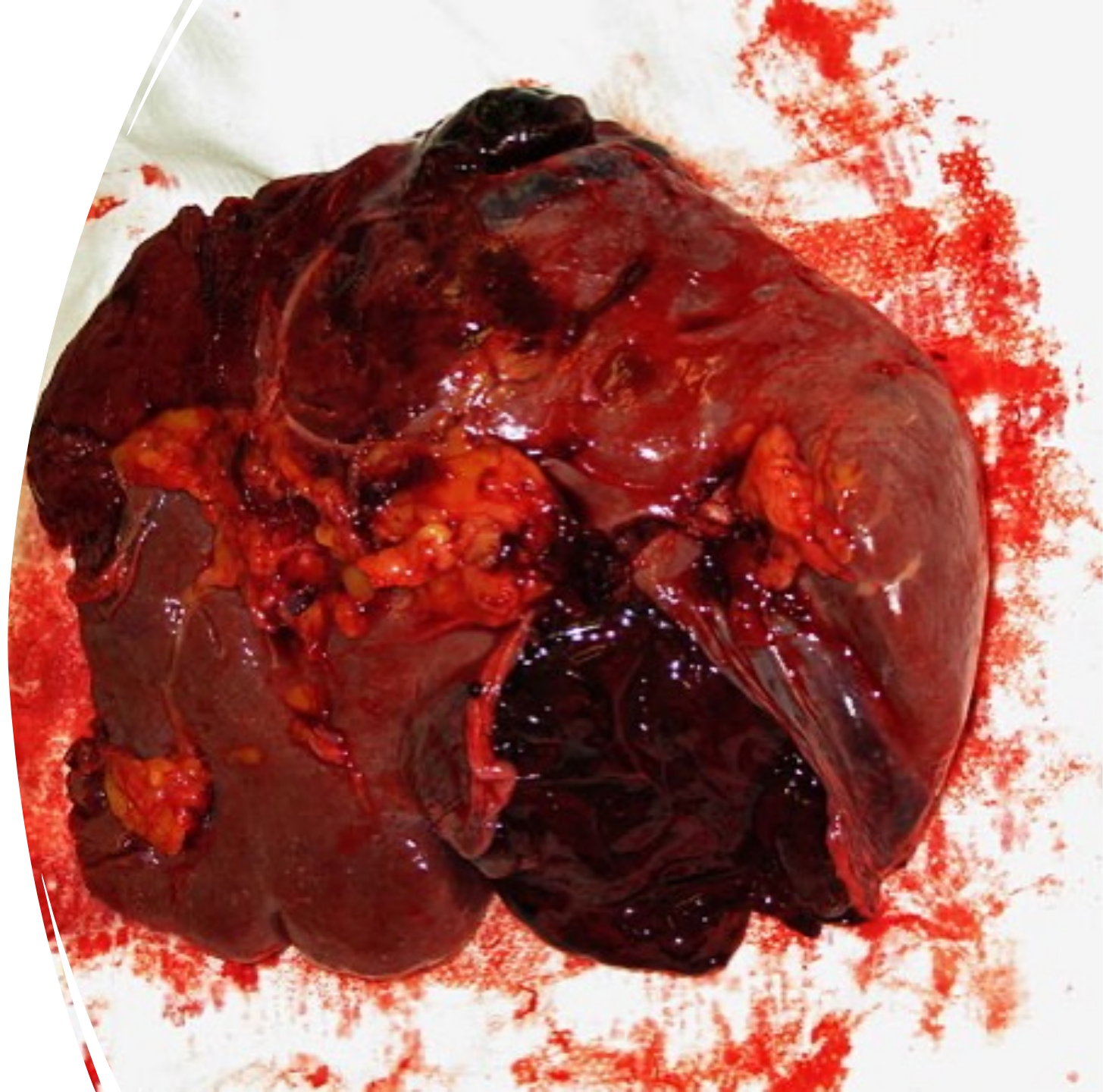
# Liver, Spleen, and Kidney





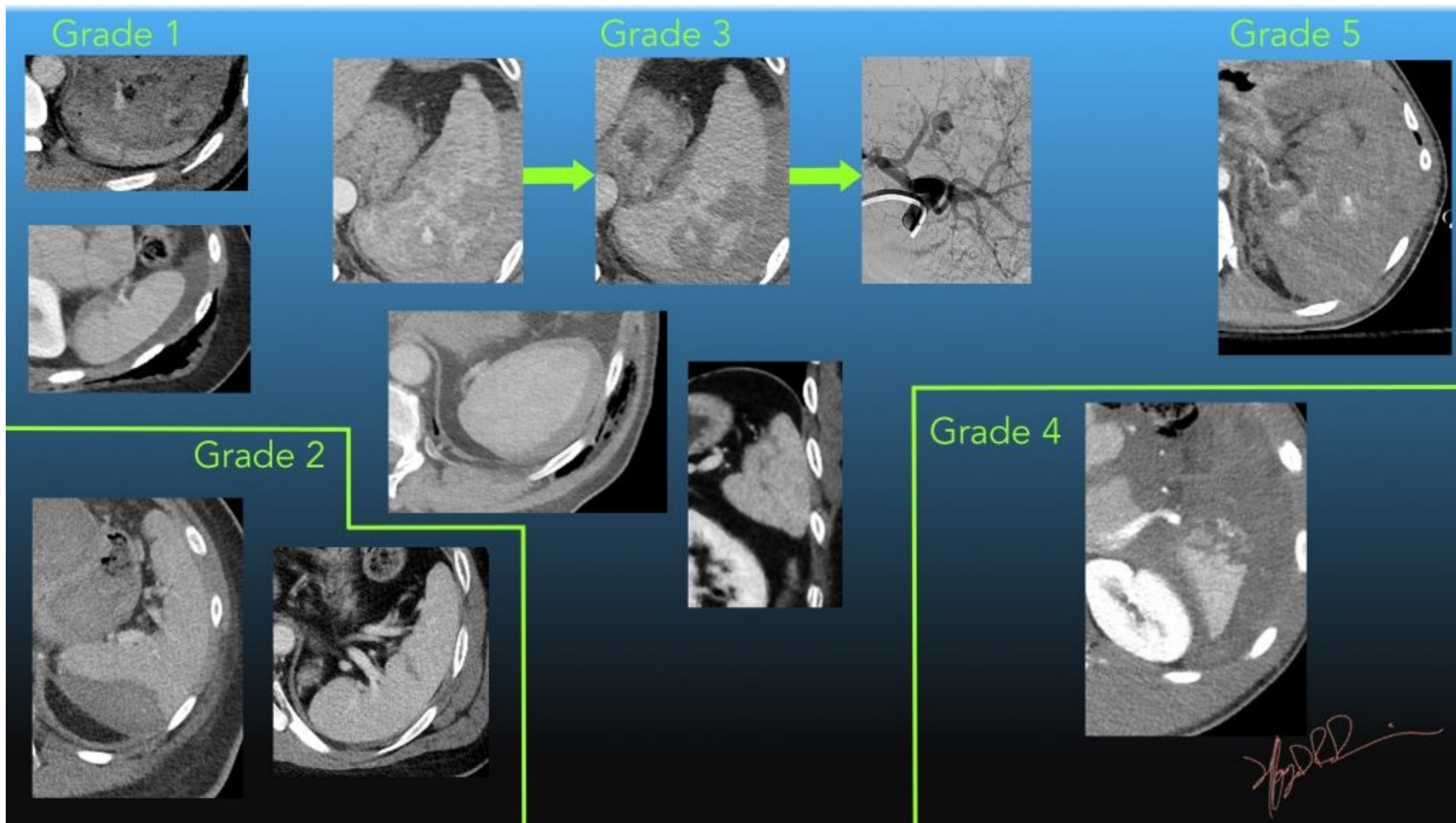
# Splenic Laceration

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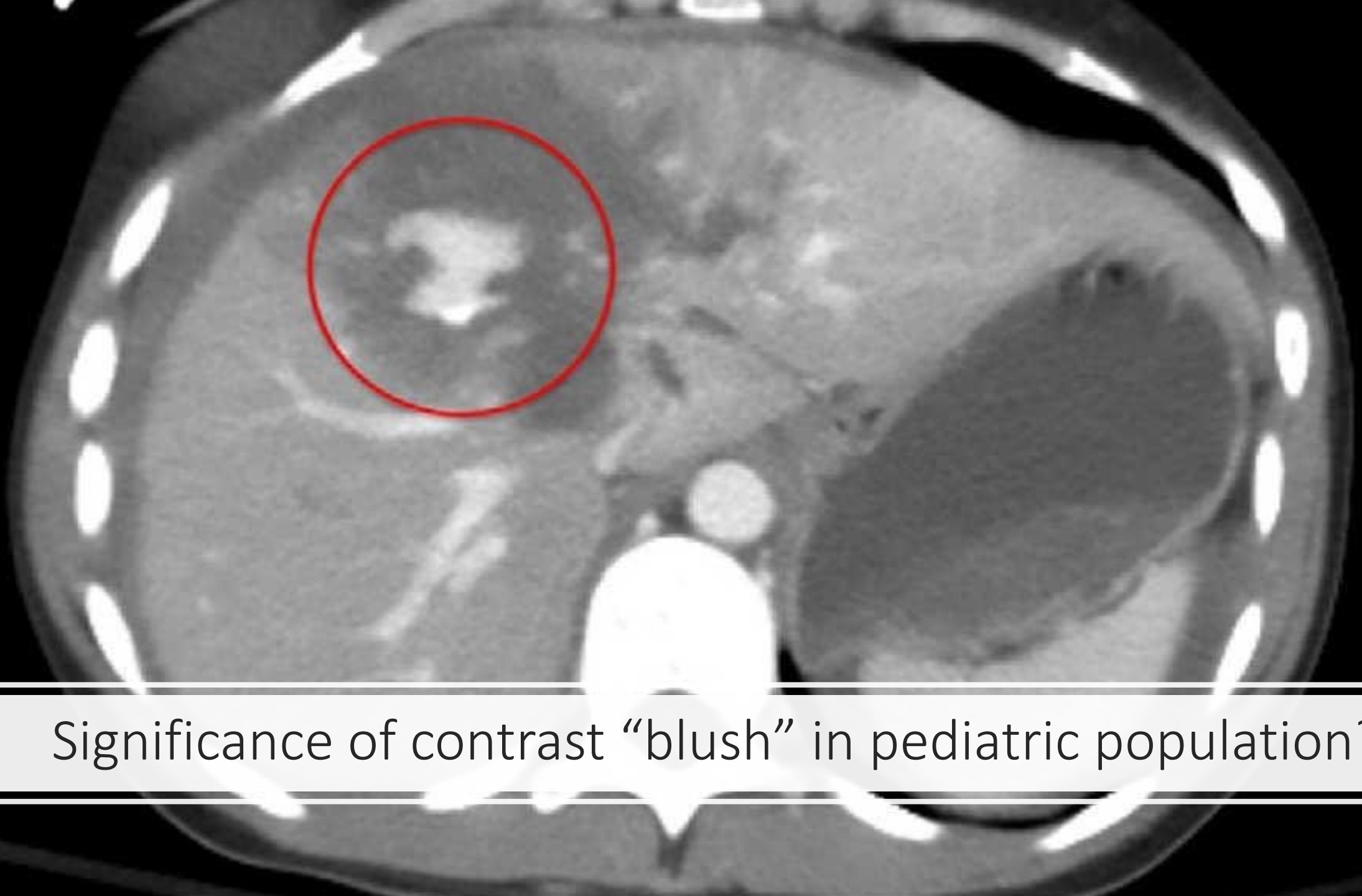
# Spectrum of Splenic Injuries



Grade <sup>a</sup>	Type	Description of Injury
1	Hematoma	Subcapsular, < 10% surface area
	Laceration	Capsular tear, < 1 cm parenchymal depth
2	Hematoma	Subcapsular, 10–50% surface area Intraparenchymal, < 5 cm in diameter
	Laceration	1–3 cm parenchymal depth; does not involve a trabecular vessel
3	Hematoma	Subcapsular, > 50% surface area or expanding; ruptured subcapsular or parenchymal hematoma
	Laceration	> 3 cm parenchymal depth or involved trabecular vessels
4	Laceration	Laceration involving segmental or hilar vessels and producing major devascularization (> 25% of spleen)
5	Laceration	Completely shattered spleen
	Vascular	Hilar vascular injury that devascularizes spleen

Note—Adapted with permission from [2].

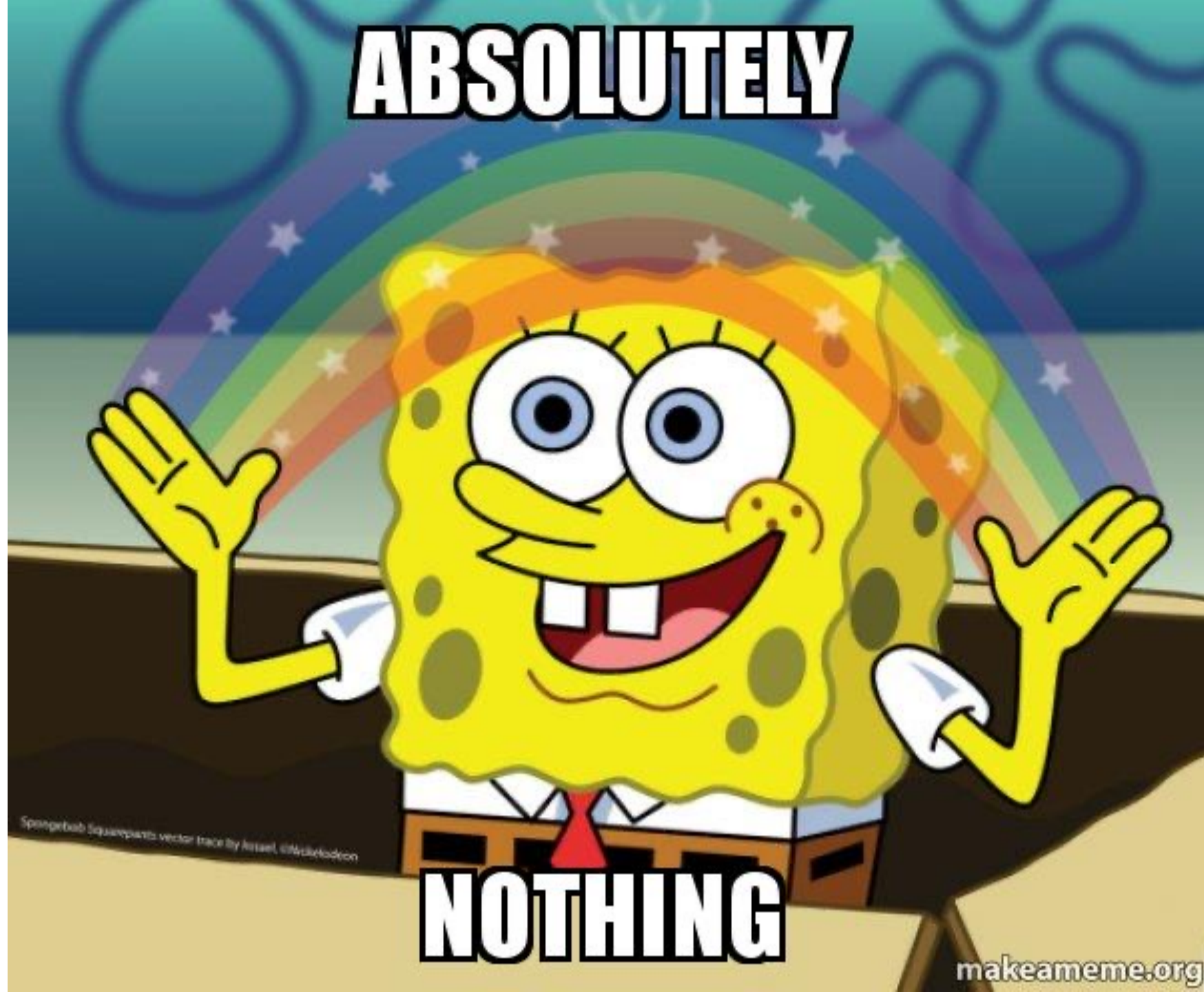
<sup>a</sup>Advance one grade for multiple injuries up to grade 3. The American Association for the Surgery of Trauma uses roman numerals.



Significance of contrast “blush” in pediatric population?



**ABSOLUTELY**

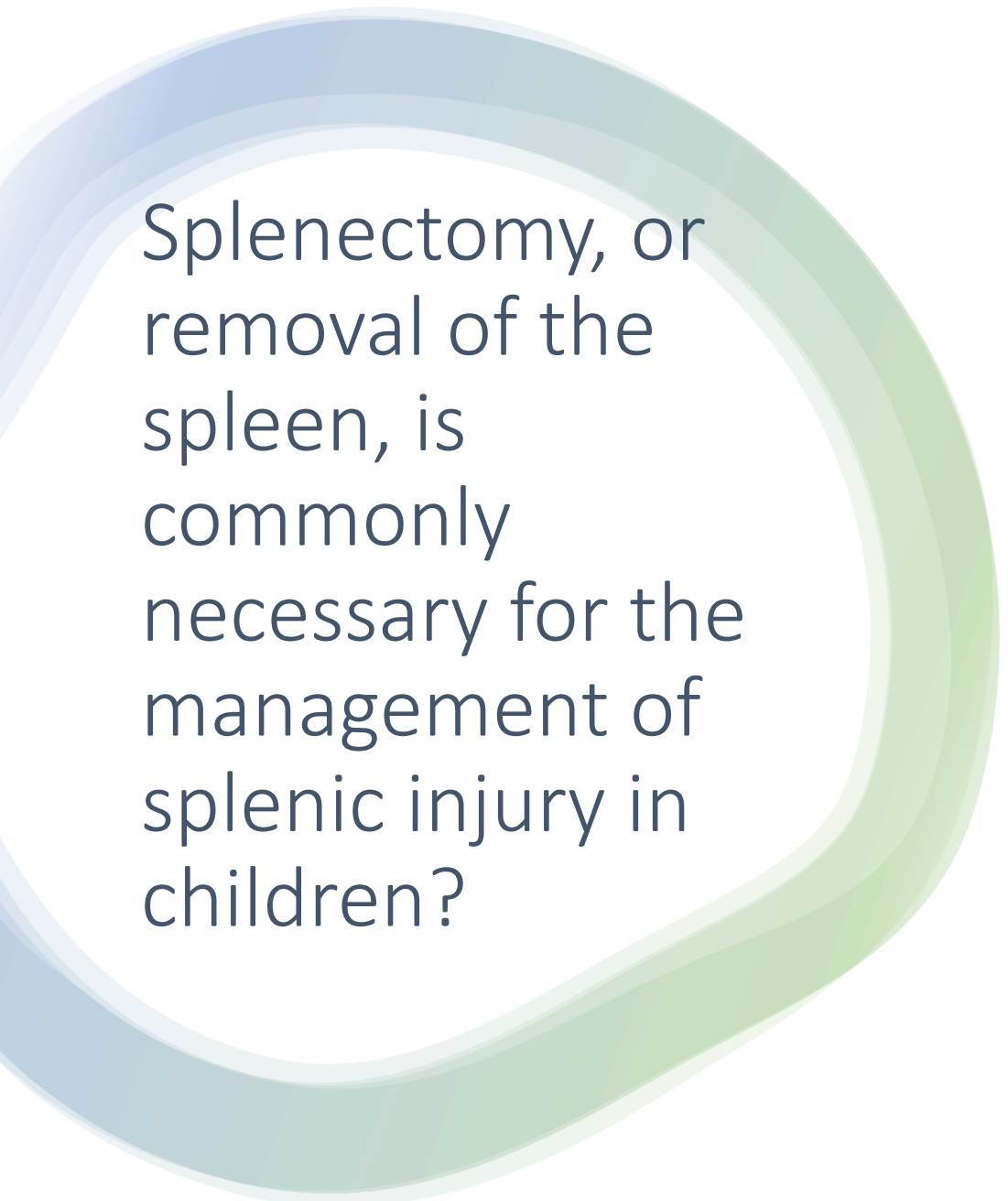


**NOTHING**

Spongebob Squarepants vector trace by Israel, ©Wubeladon

makeameme.org





Splenectomy, or removal of the spleen, is commonly necessary for the management of splenic injury in children?

1. True
2. False

Splenectomy, or removal of the spleen, is commonly necessary for the management of splenic injury in children?

**2. False**

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# Solid Organ Solution

- Transfusion



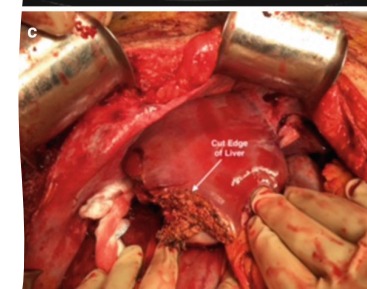
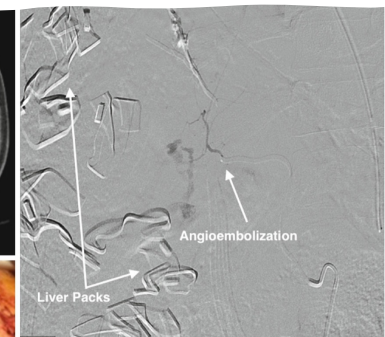
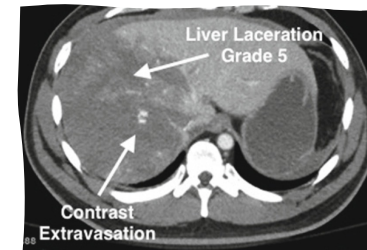
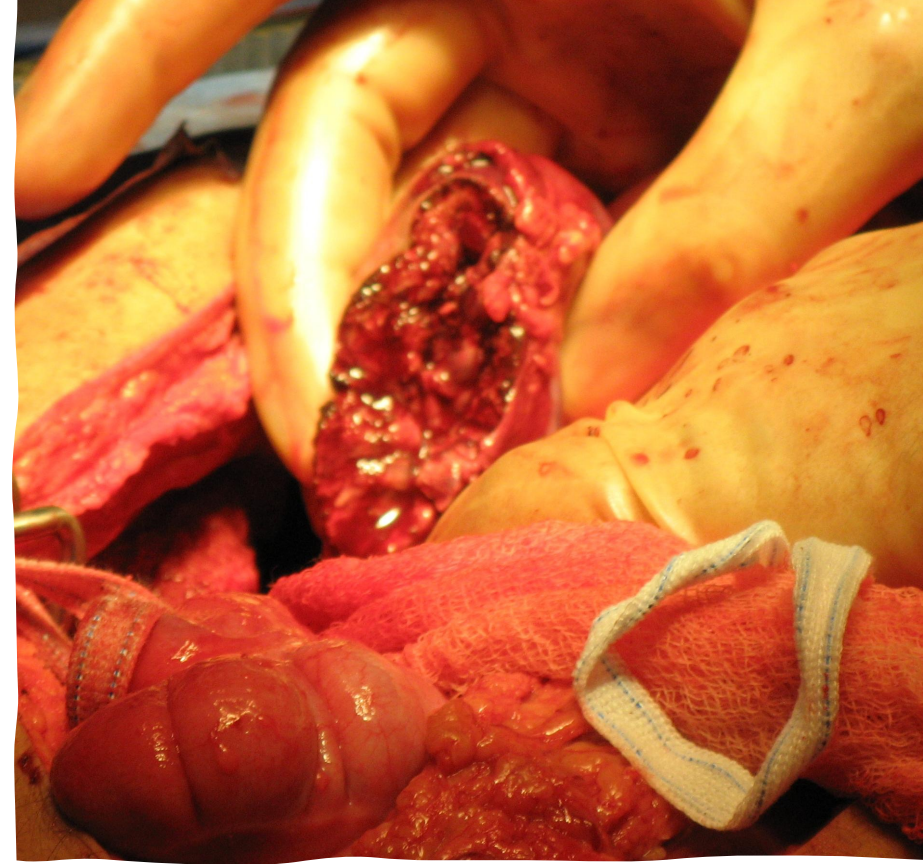
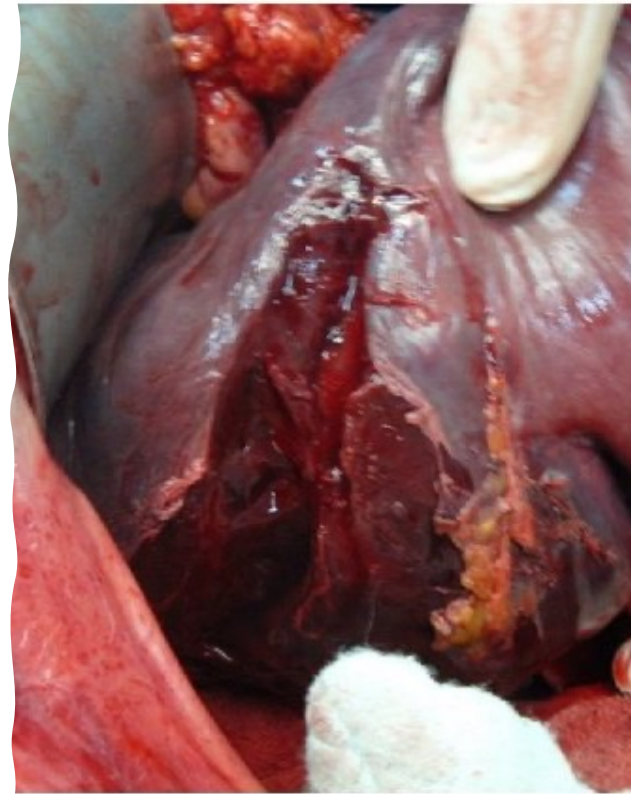
Late Sequelae  
of Splenic  
Laceration

- Very Few
  - *If splenectomy not performed*
  - *Rare splenic cyst*



# Liver Laceration

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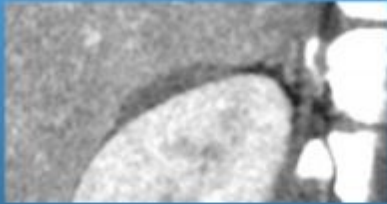
Grade	Injury type	Injury description
I	Haematoma	Subcapsular <10 % surface
	Laceration	Capsular tear <1 cm parenchymal depth
II	Haematoma	Subcapsular 10–50 % surface area; intraparenchymal, <10 cm diameter
	Laceration	1–3 cm parenchymal depth, <10 cm in length
III	Haematoma	Subcapsular >50 % surface area or expanding, ruptured subcapsular or parenchymal haematoma. Intraparenchymal haematoma >10 cm
	Laceration	>3 cm parenchymal depth
IV	Laceration	Parenchymal disruption 25–75 % of hepatic lobe
	Vascular	Juxtavenous hepatic injuries i.e. retrohepatic vena cava/centrl major hepatic veins
VI	Vascular	Hepatic avulsion

**Advance one grade for multiple injuries up to grade III**

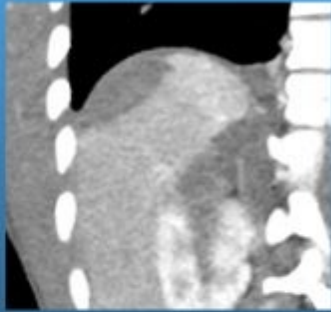
**AAST liver injury scale (1994 revision)**

# Spectrum of Liver Injuries

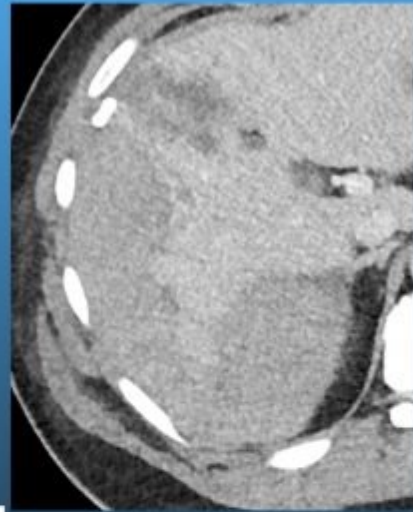
Grade 1



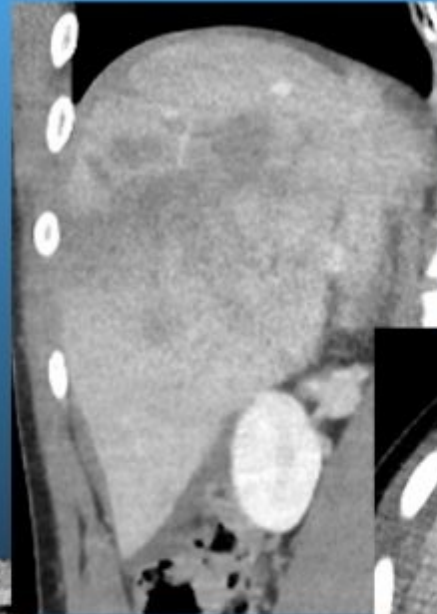
Grade 2



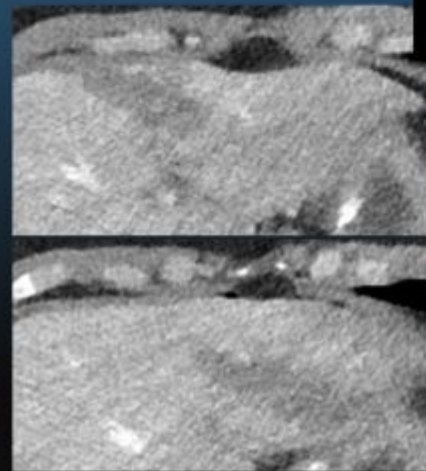
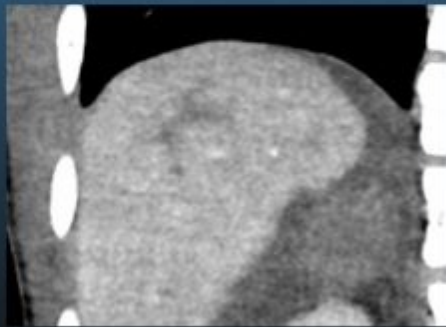
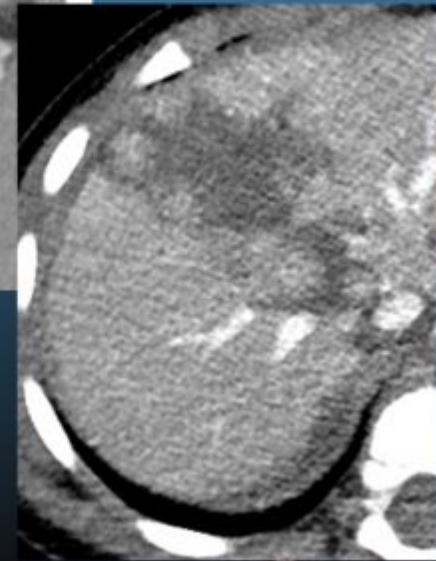
Grade 3



Grade 4



Grade 5



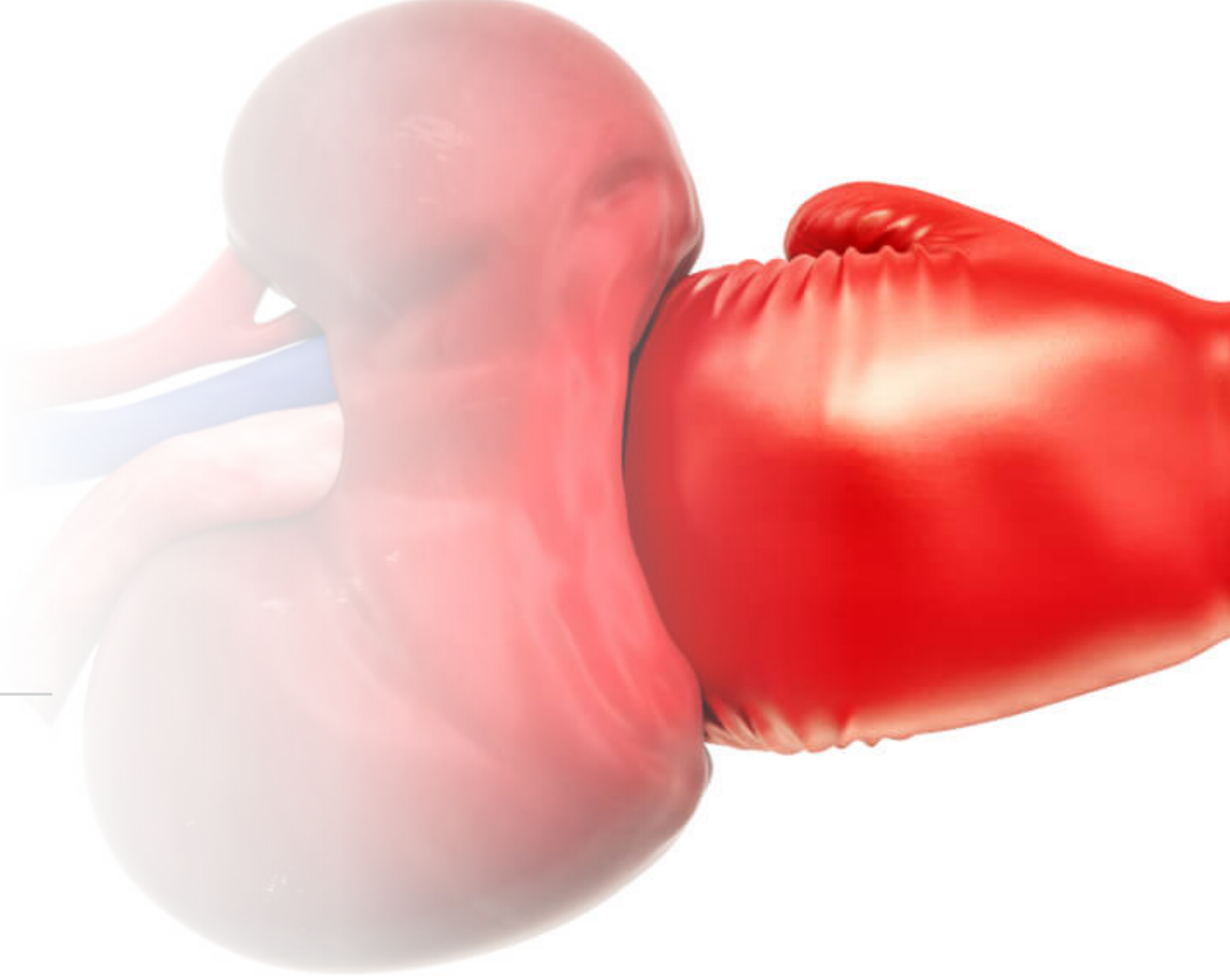
(examples from different patients)

*Handwritten signature*

# Liver injuries-special considerations

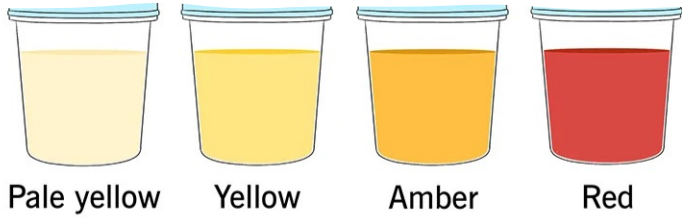
- Possible ductal injury – Common bile duct
- Prolonged bile leak
- Hepatic necrosis
  - Common after embolization procedures
- Hemobilia
  - arterio-biliary or porto-biliary fistula
    - Presents as a GI bleed with jaundice and RUQ pain



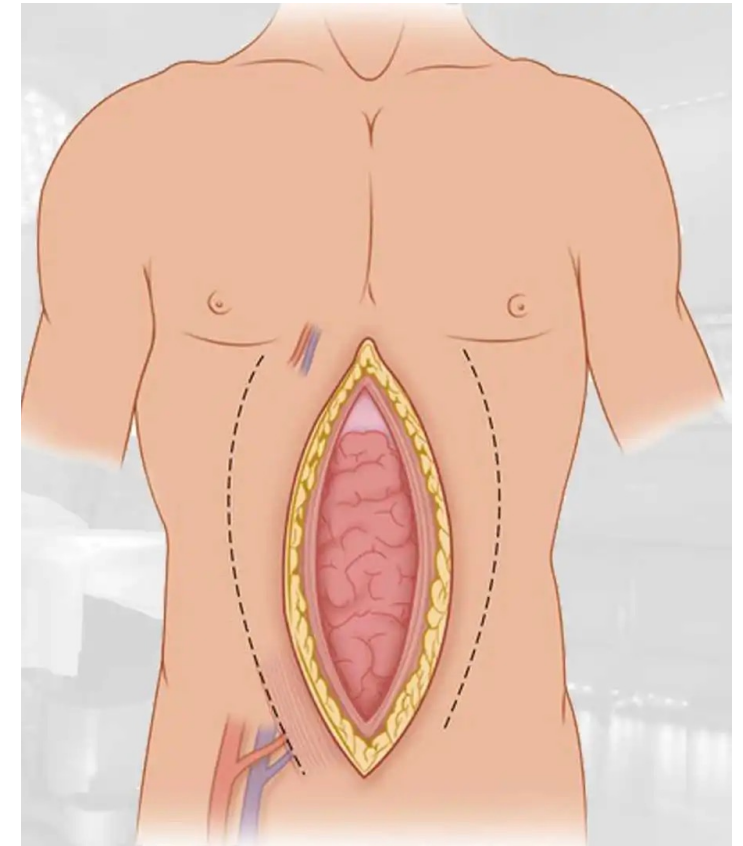
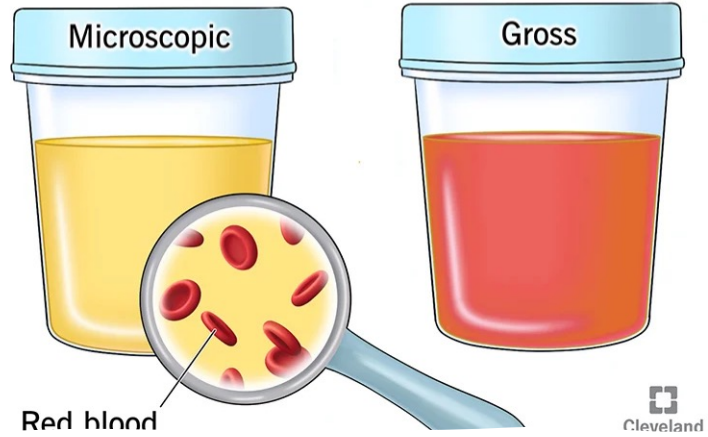


# Kidney injuries

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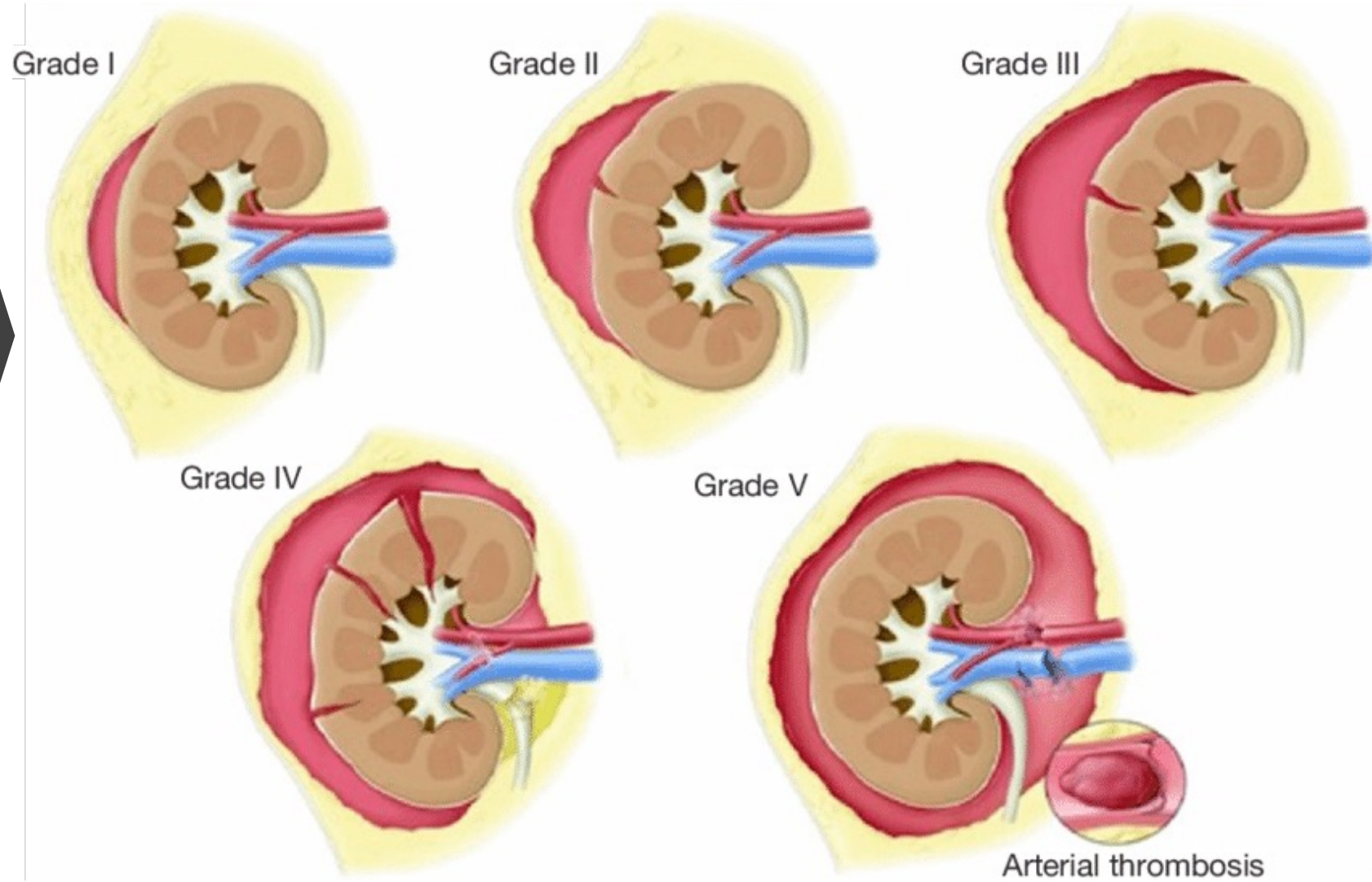
### Hematuria



# Diagnosis

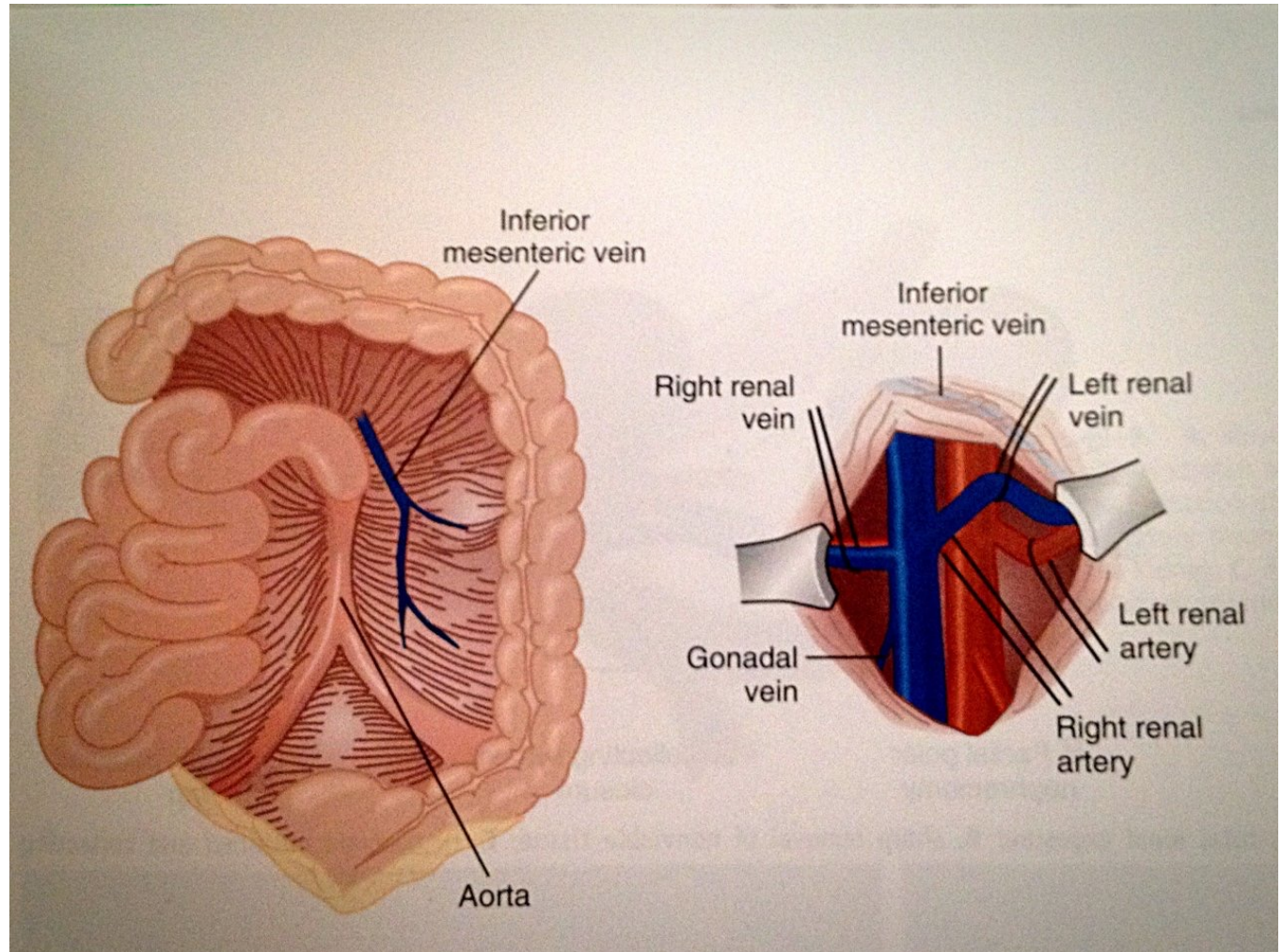
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# Kidney injury Grading

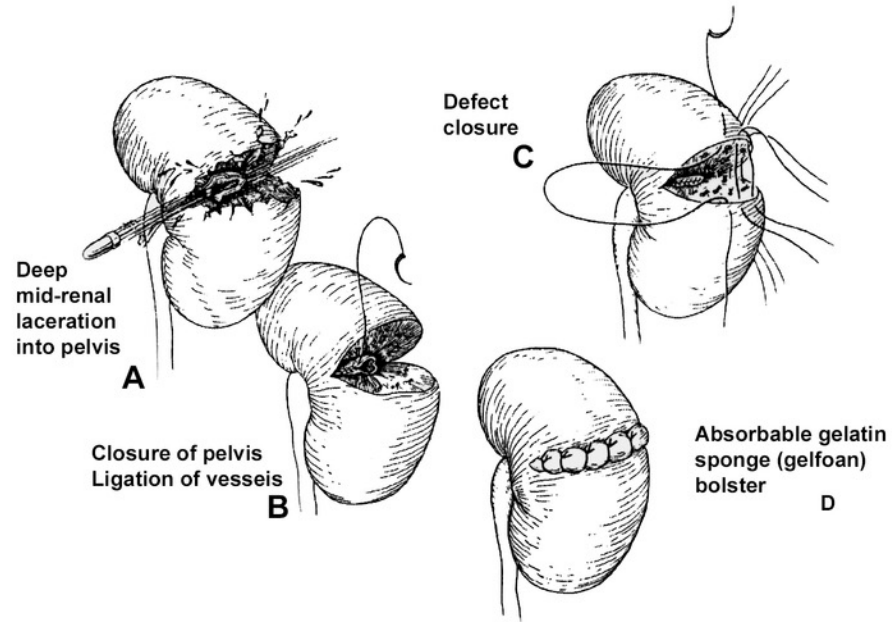




Vascular injury =  
attempt at  
revascularization



Warm ischemia time gives about 4 hours for potential salvage



# Treatment

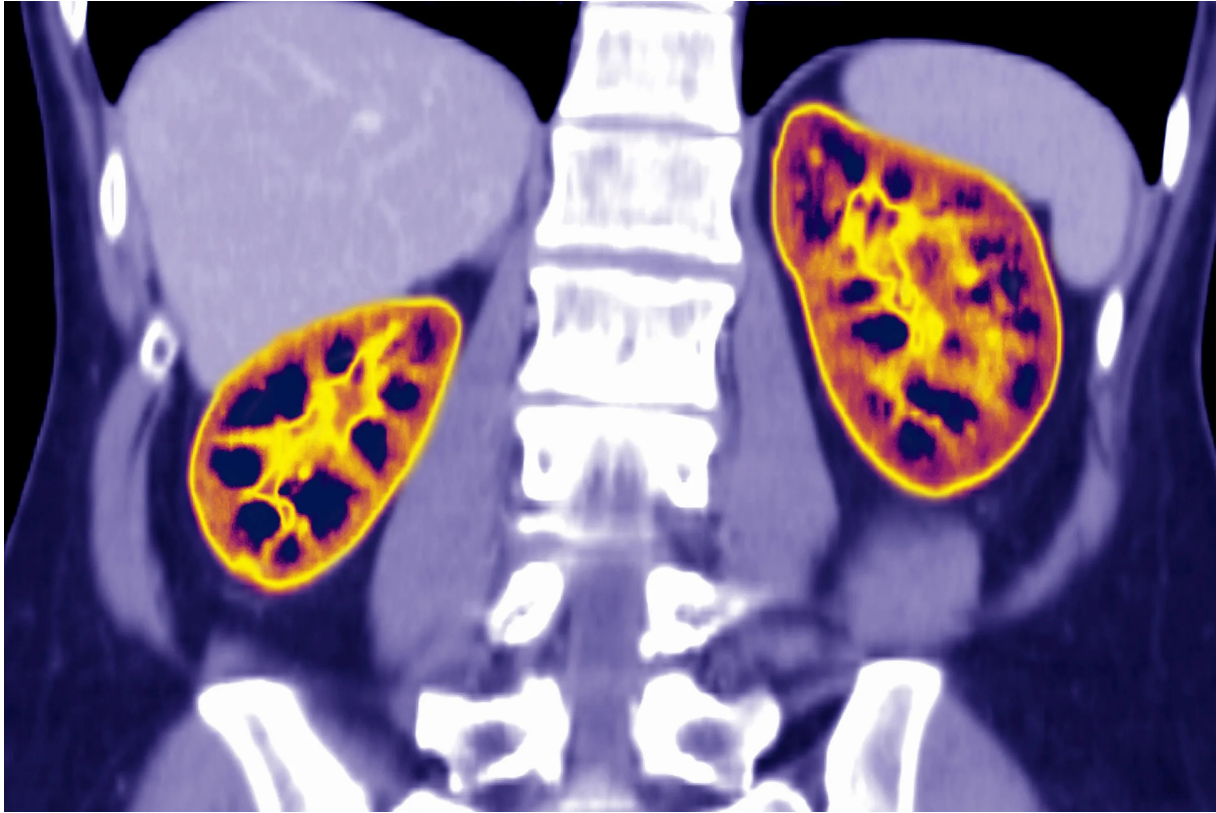
Almost all NON-operative

Partial nephrectomy/closure of laceration

Nephrectomy



## Late consequences



- Hydronephrosis
- AV fistula
- Urine leak/Urinoma
- Pyelonephritis
- Calculus formation
- Hypertension



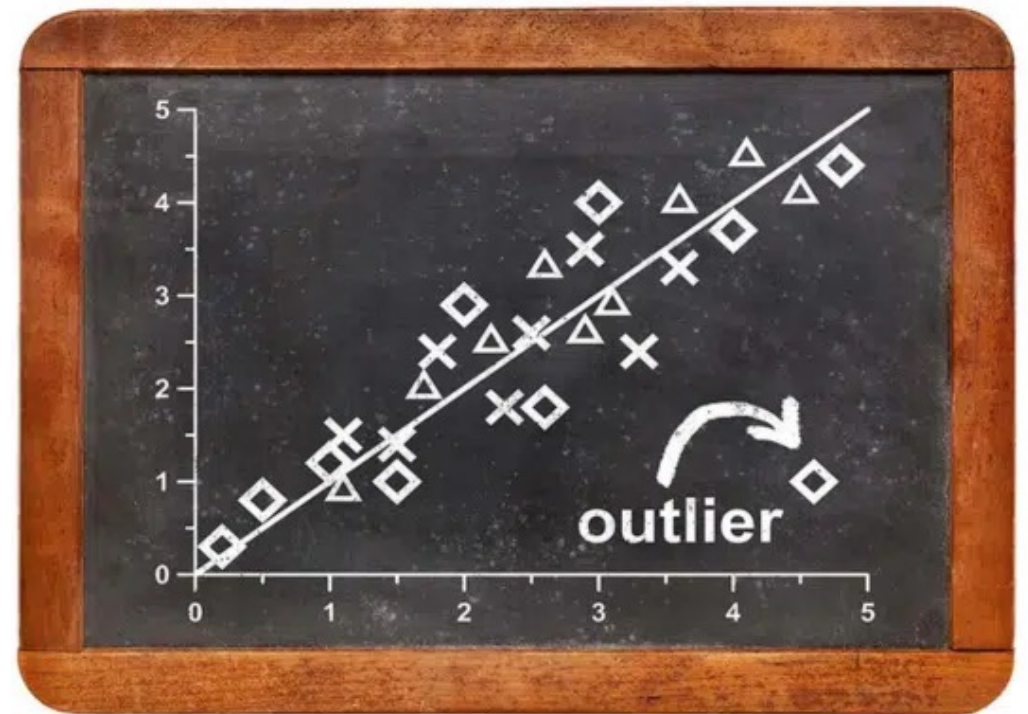
An anatomical model of the abdominal cavity, showing the liver, spleen, and kidneys. The liver is a large, reddish-brown organ on the right side. The spleen is a dark, oval-shaped organ on the left side. The kidneys are two bean-shaped organs, one on each side, located below the liver and spleen. The model is color-coded to show different organs and structures, with blue and red vessels visible. The text is overlaid on the model.

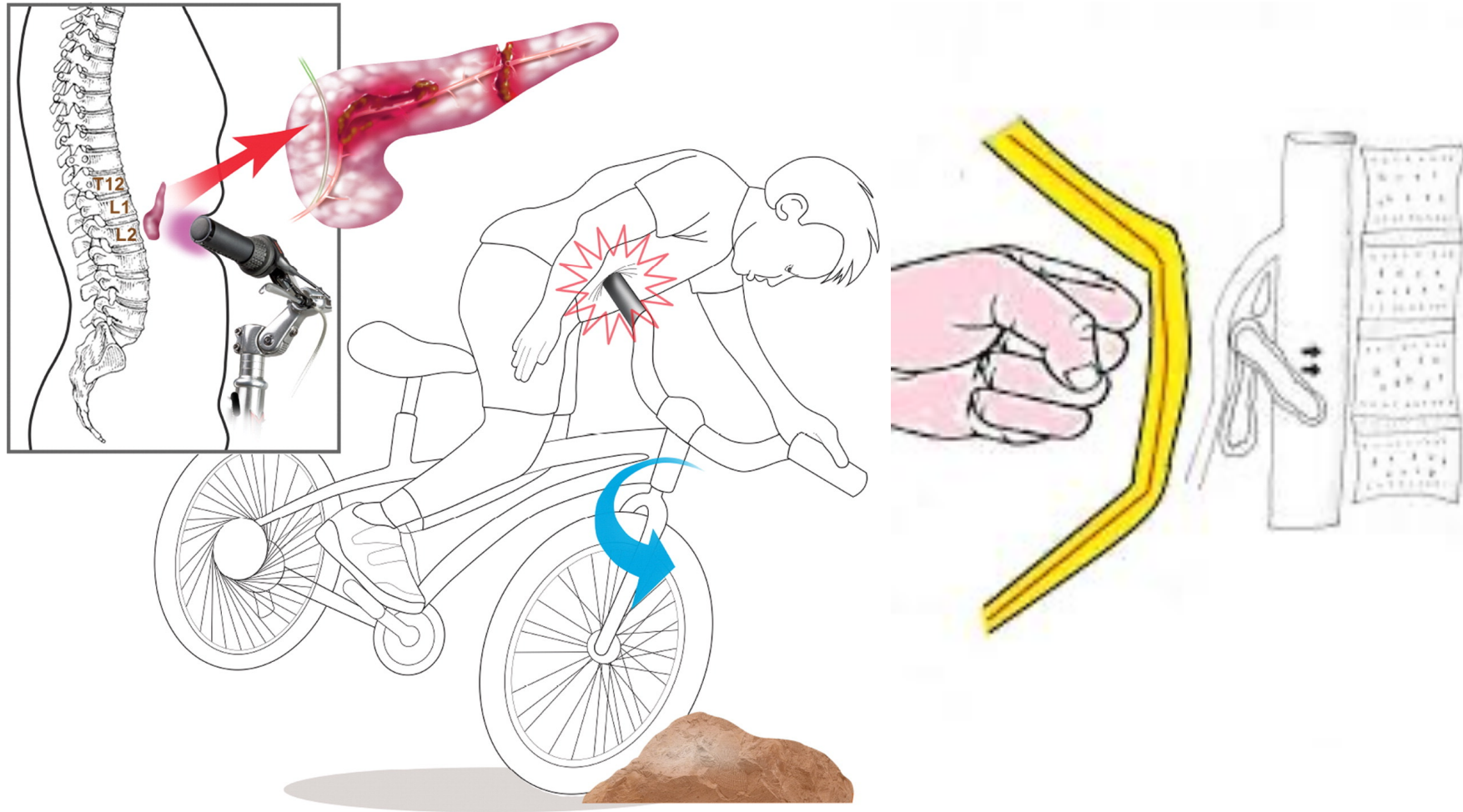
Liver, Spleen and Kidney  
injuries ALMOST NEVER  
require surgery!

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# The Solid Organ Outlier

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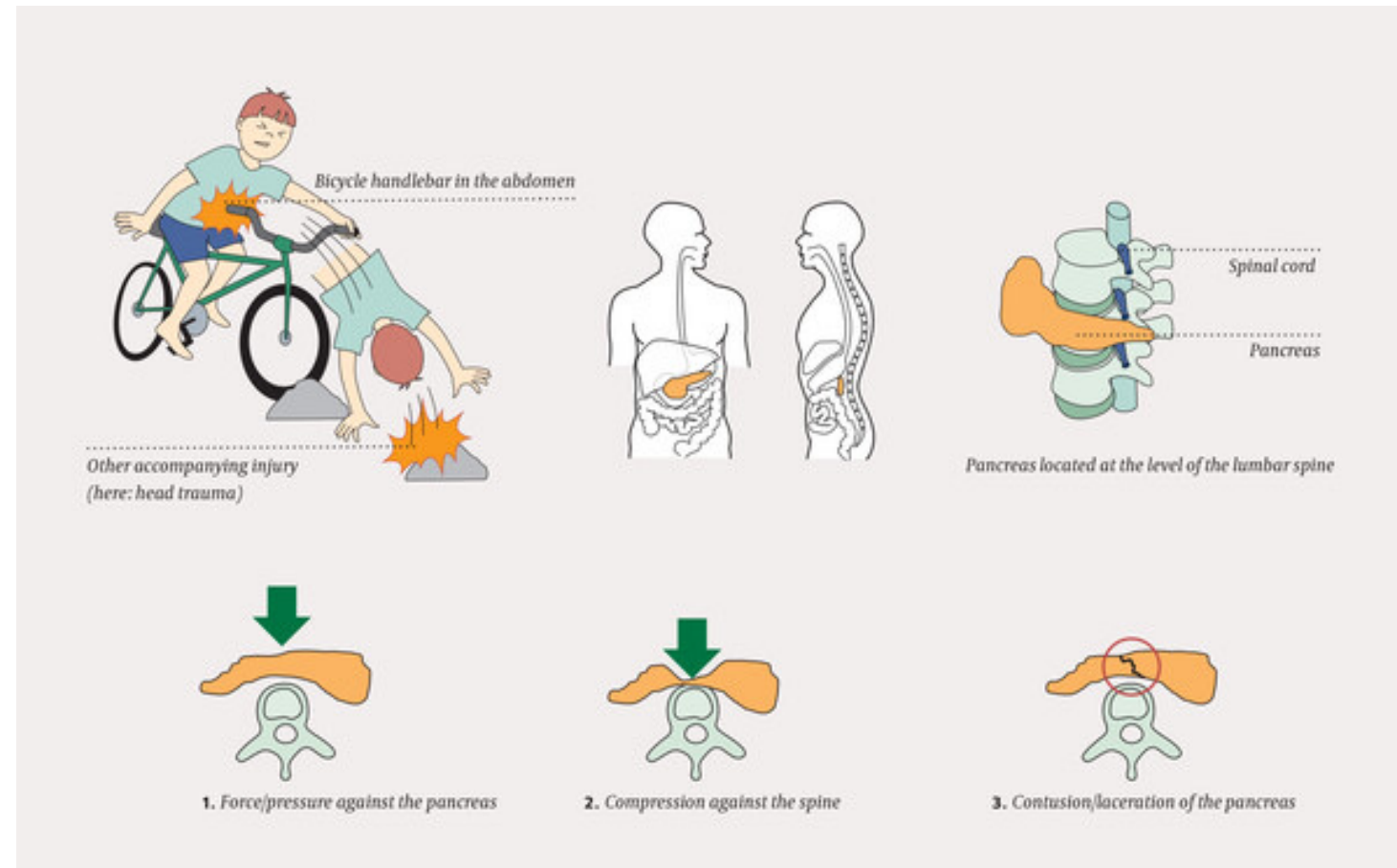
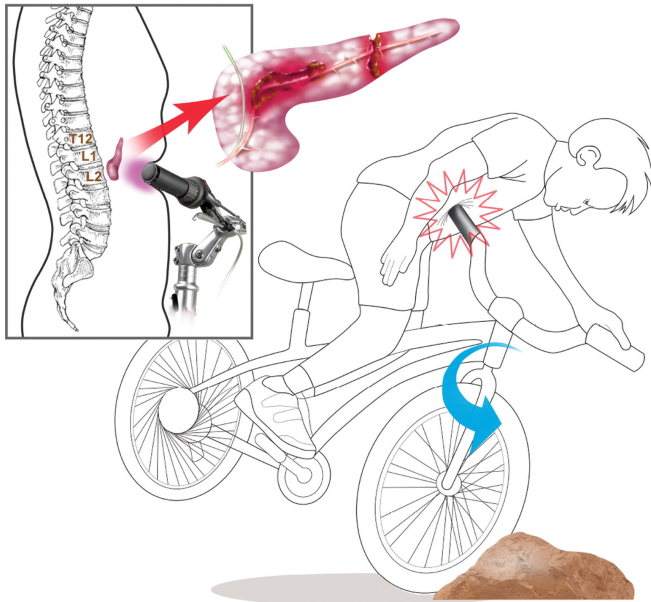
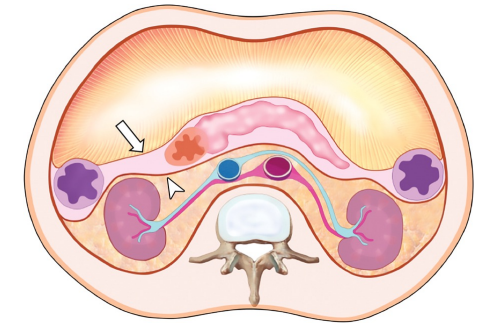




Focused Blow

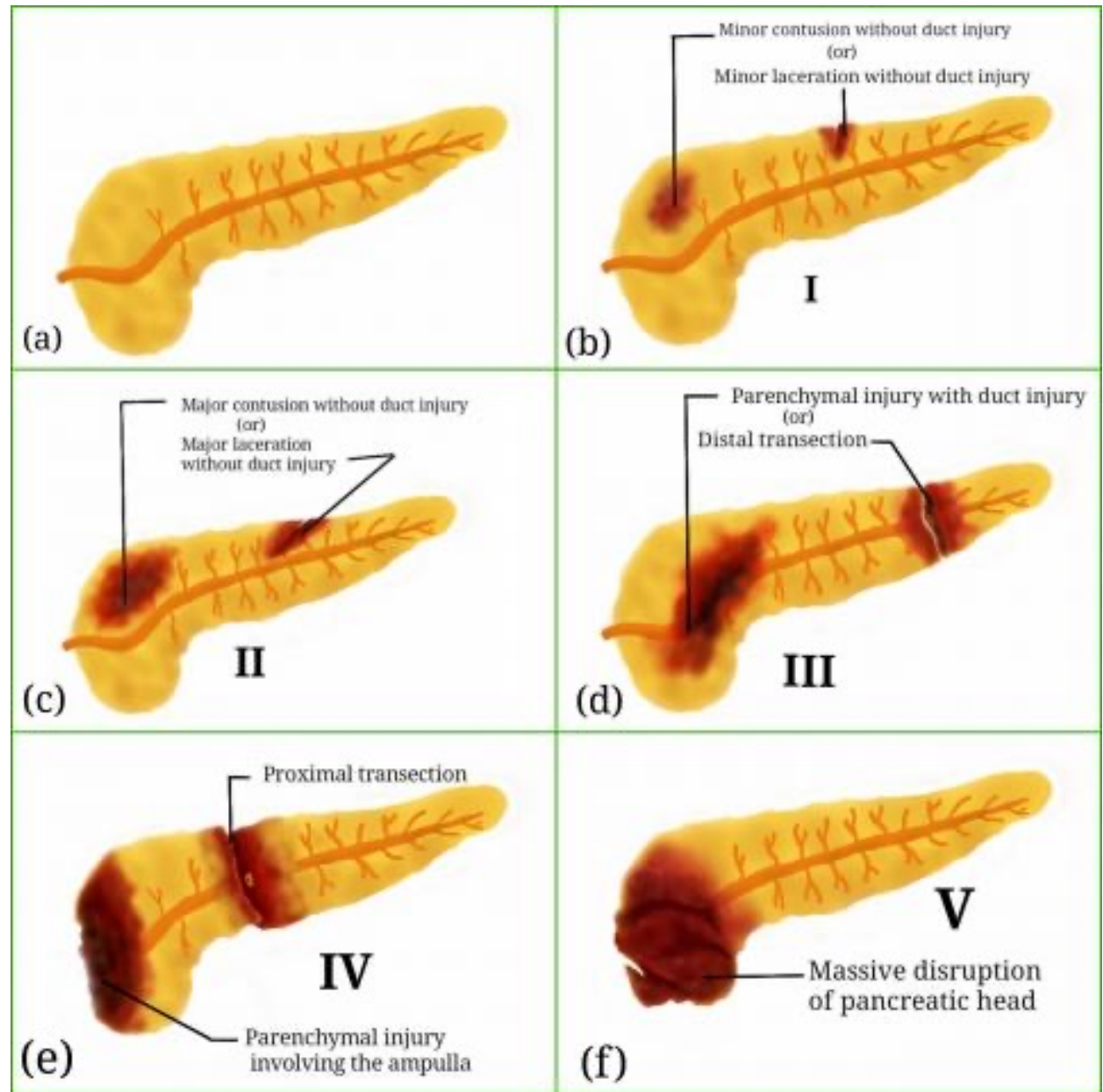


# Focused impact



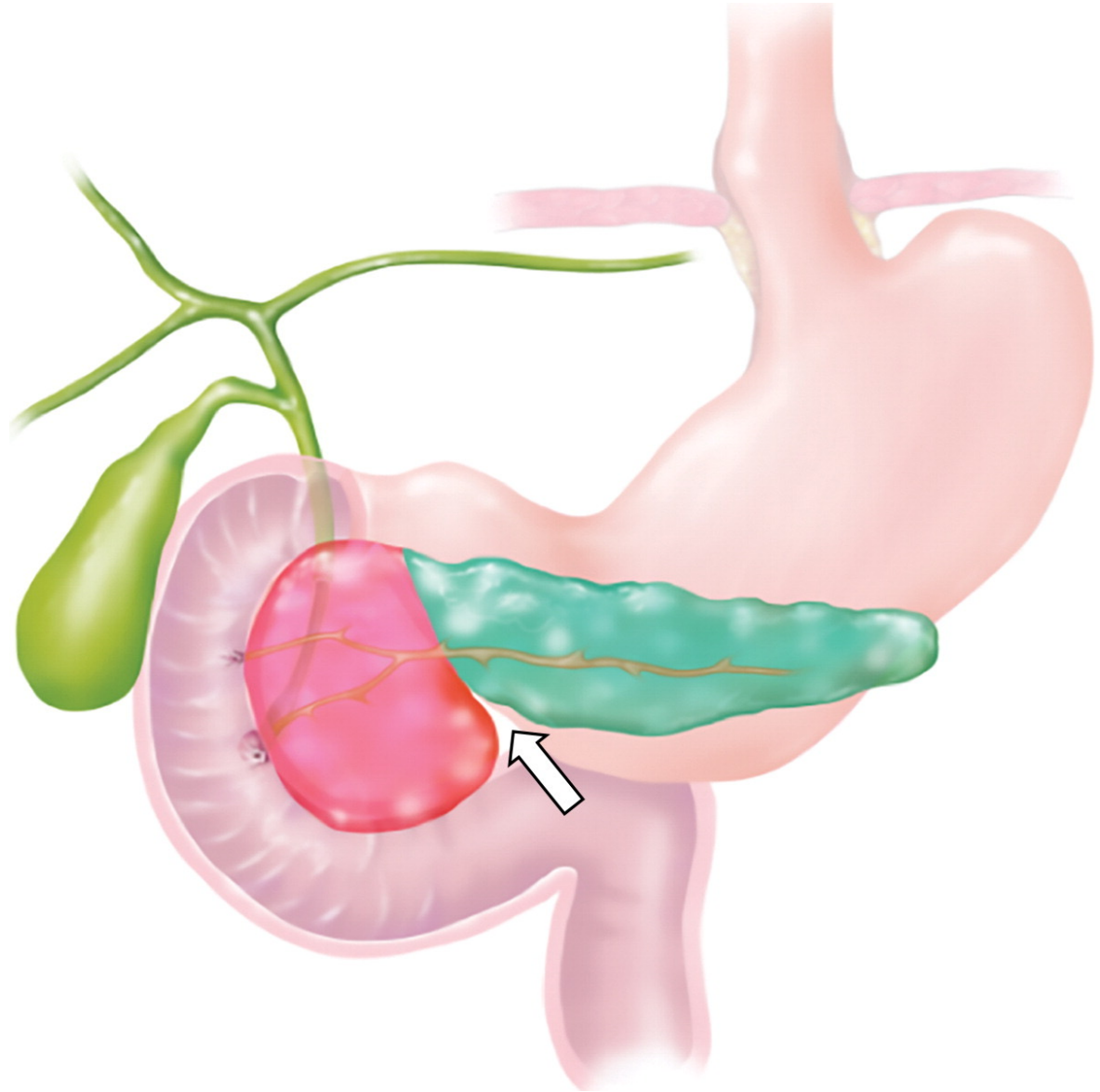


# The Pancreas





# Fractured Pancreas

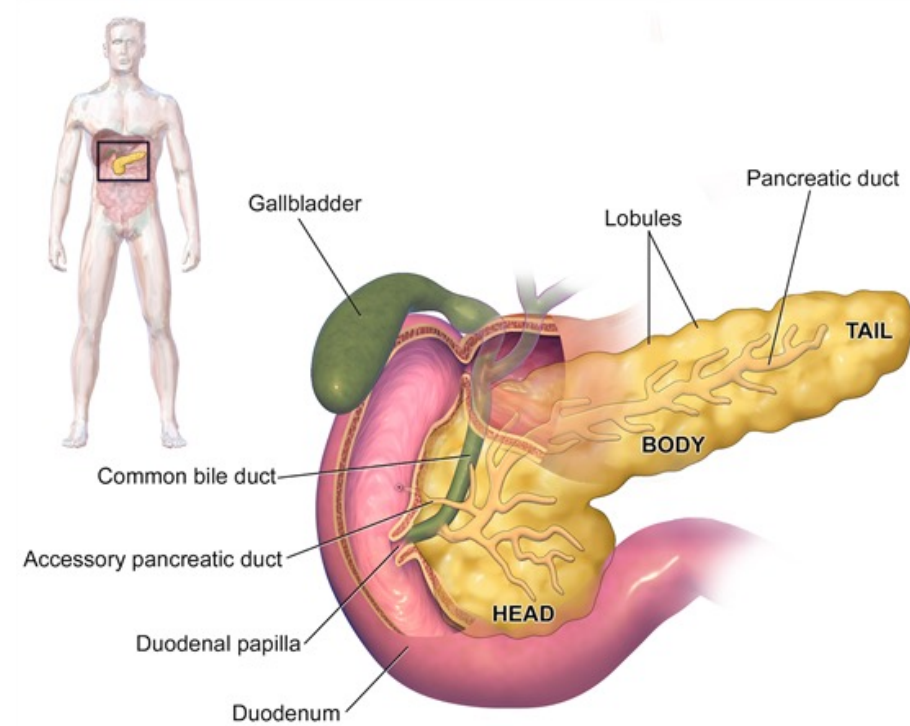
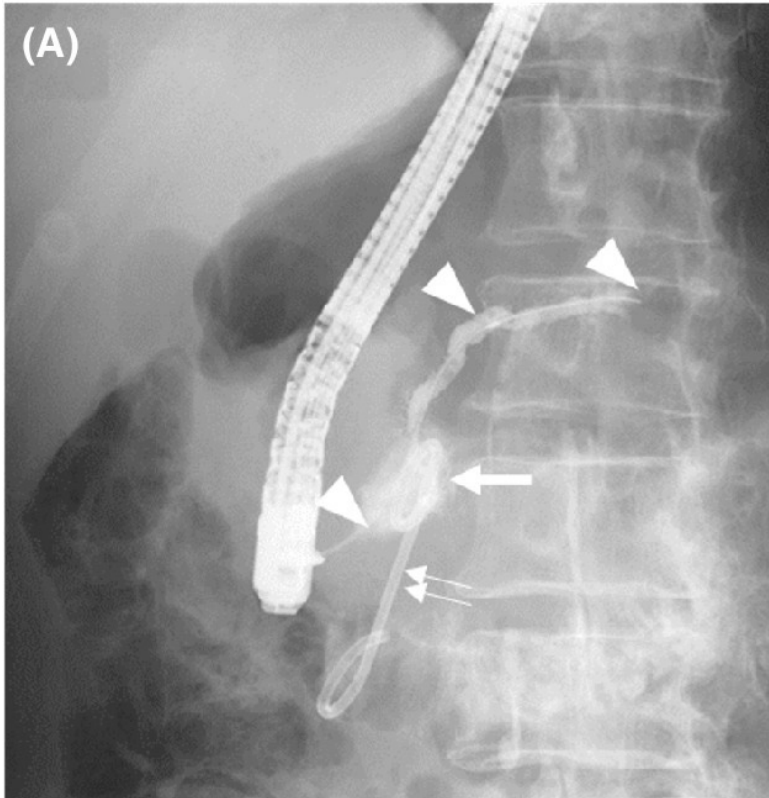


The Duct is  
the  
important  
thing

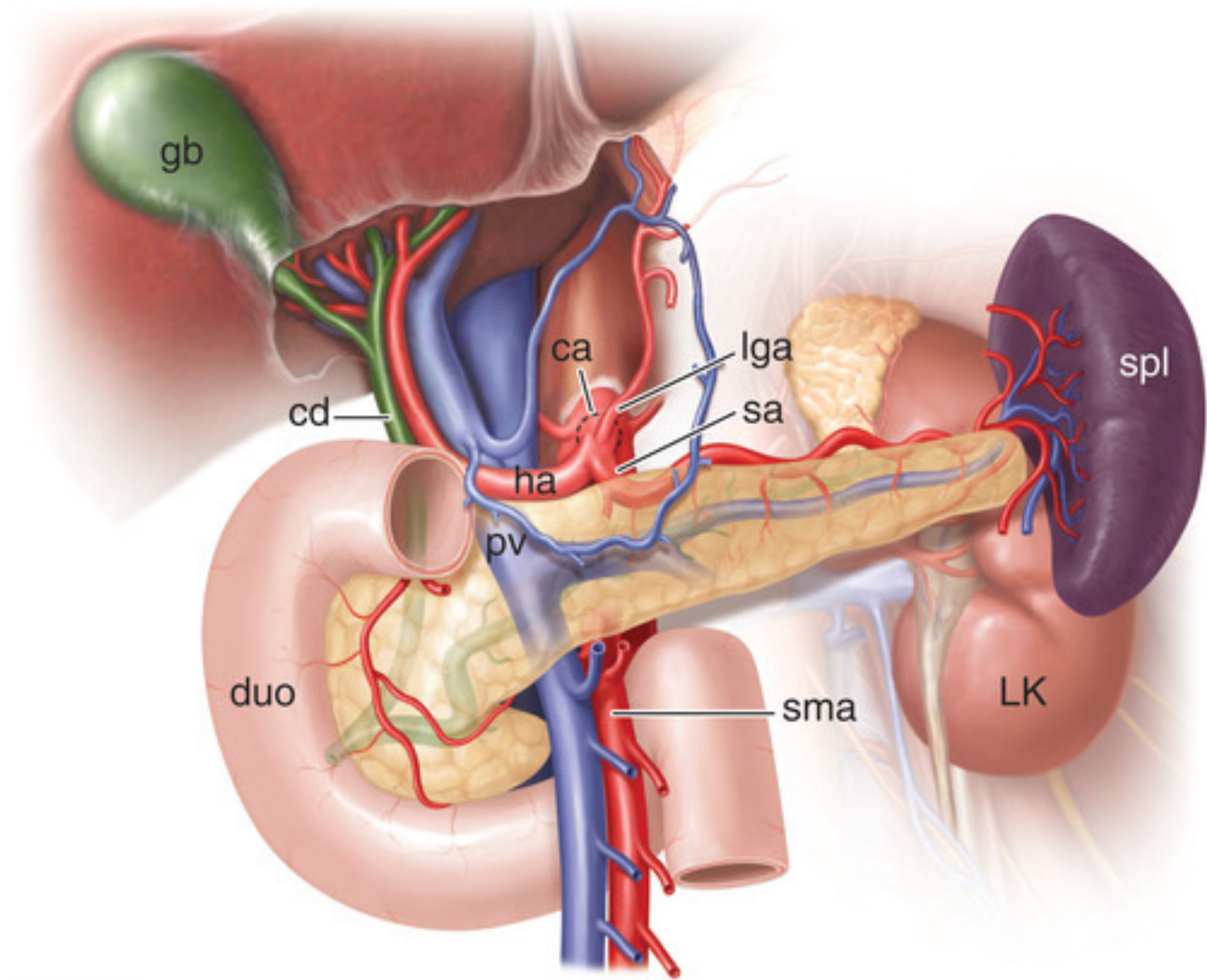


# ERCP

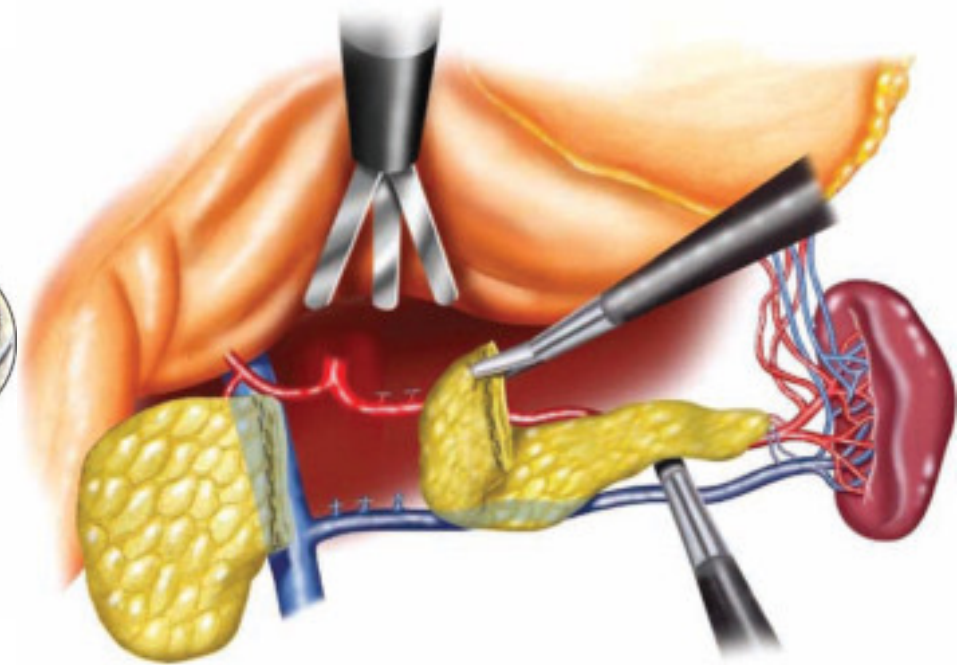
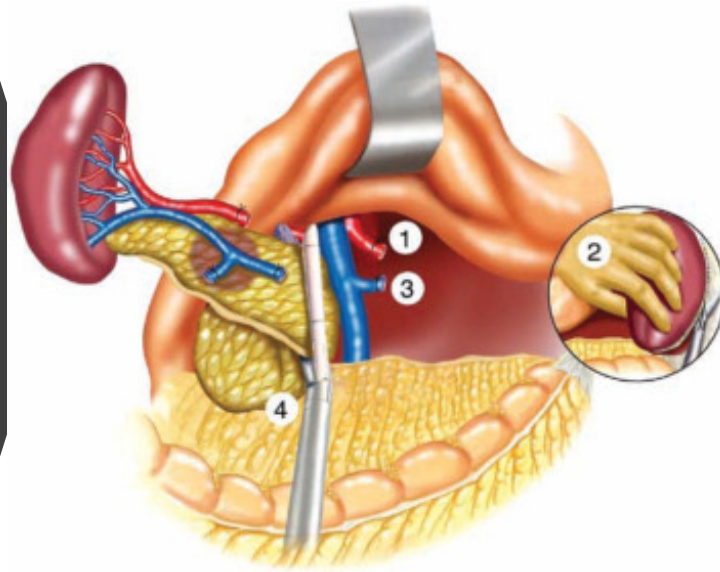
## Ductal Injury can = surgery



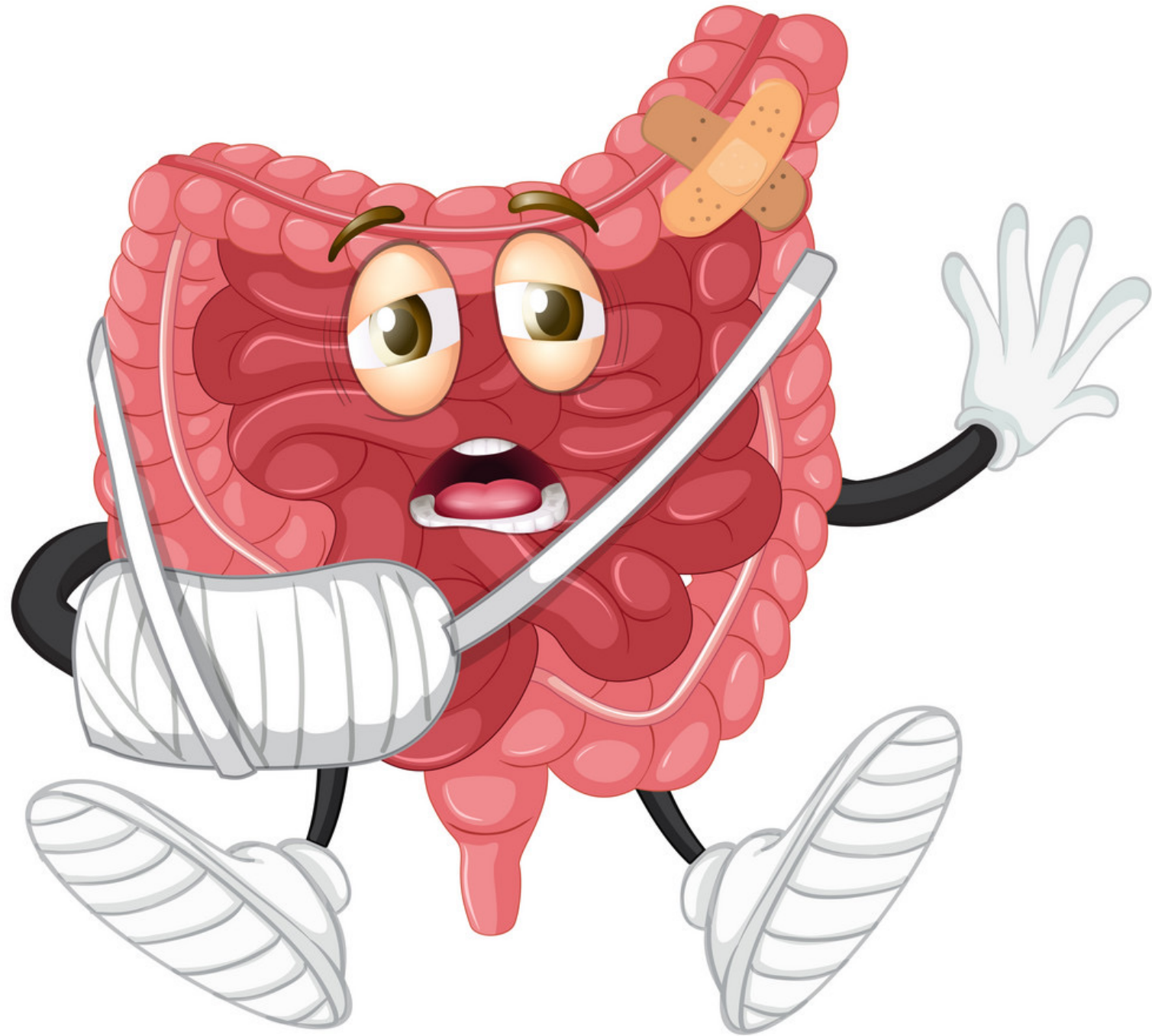




Most common  
procedure is  
distal  
pancreatectomy

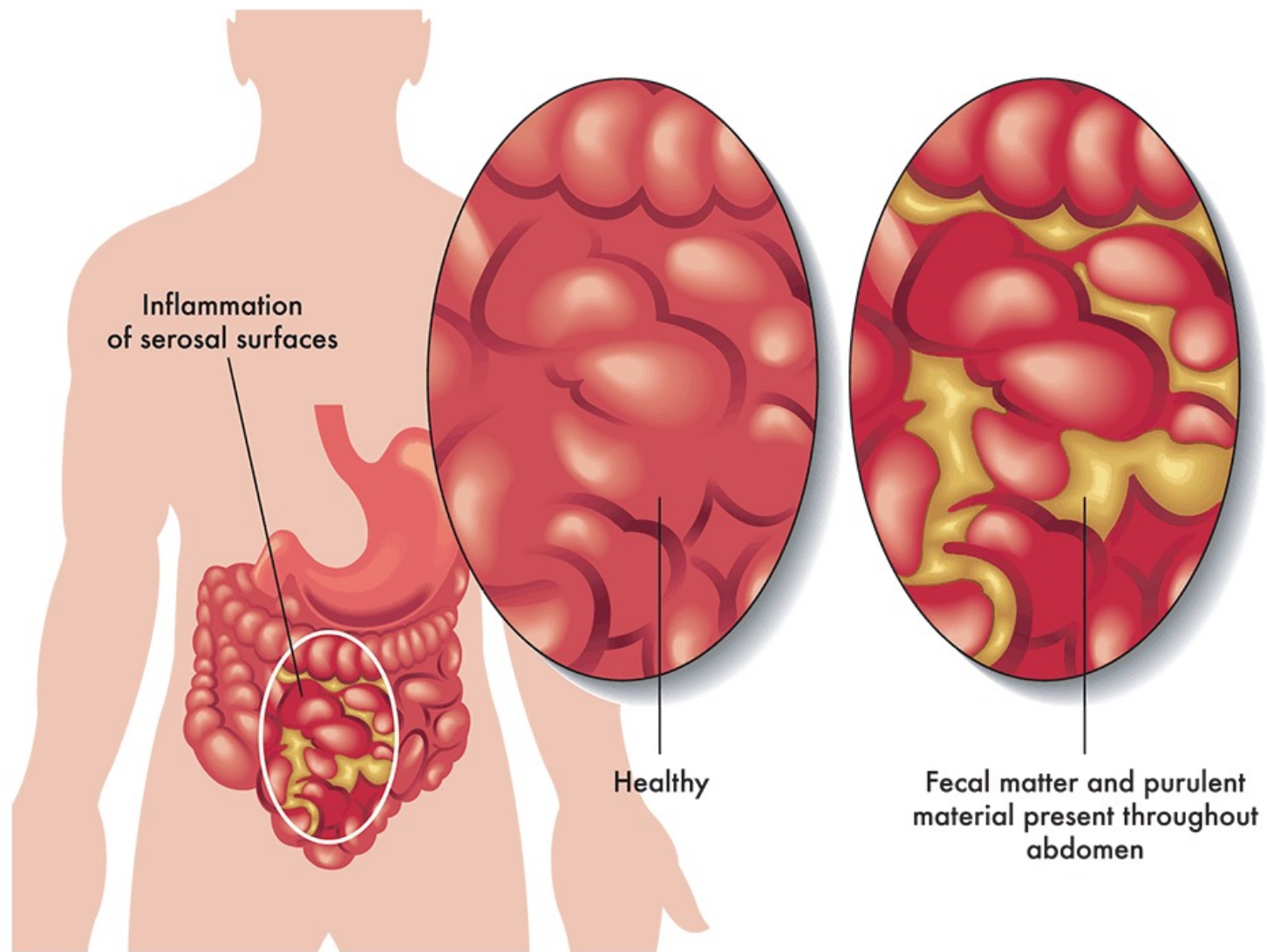


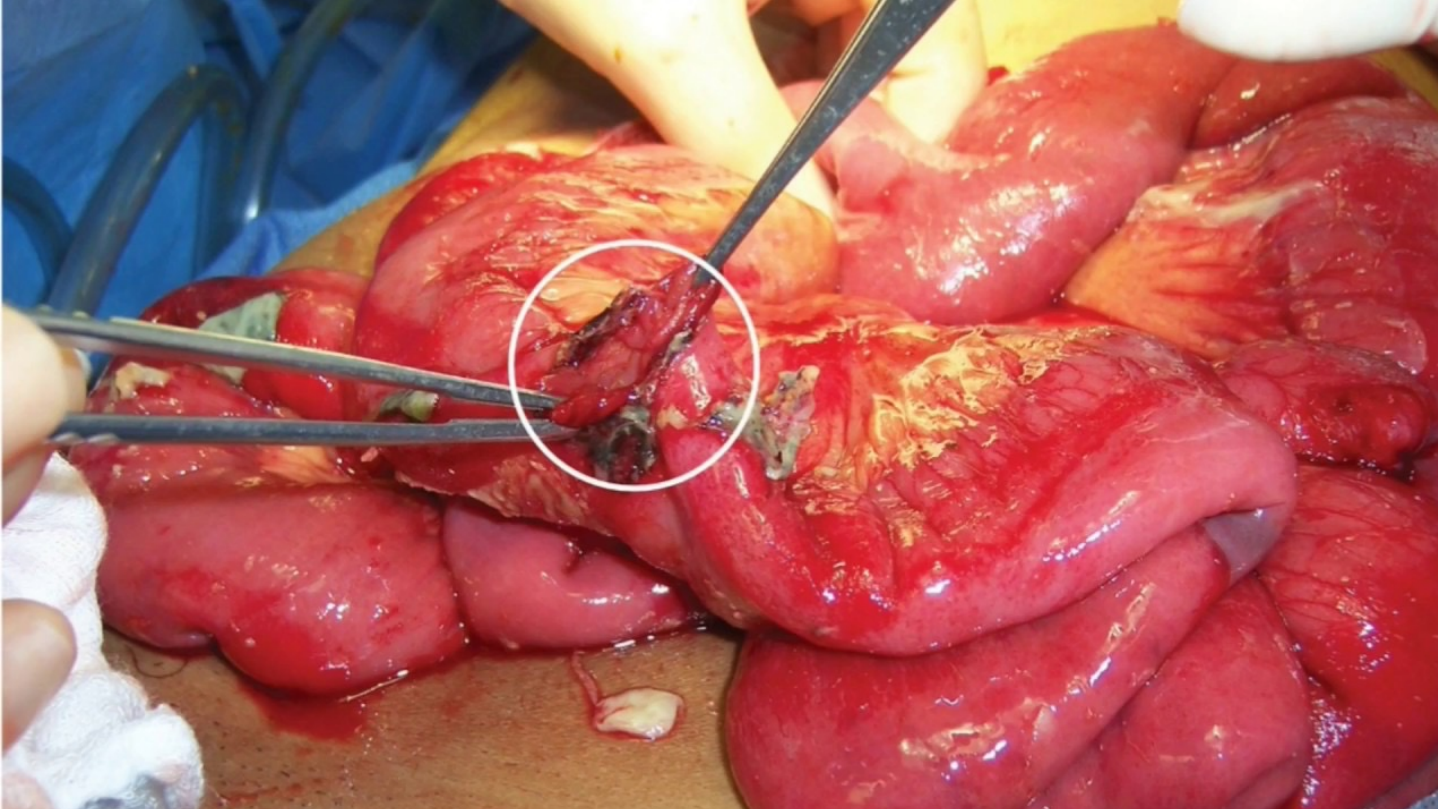
Splenic Sparing



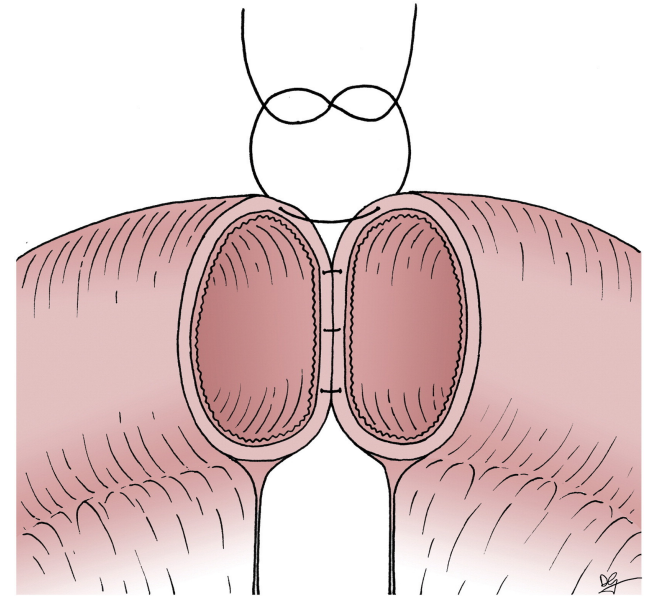
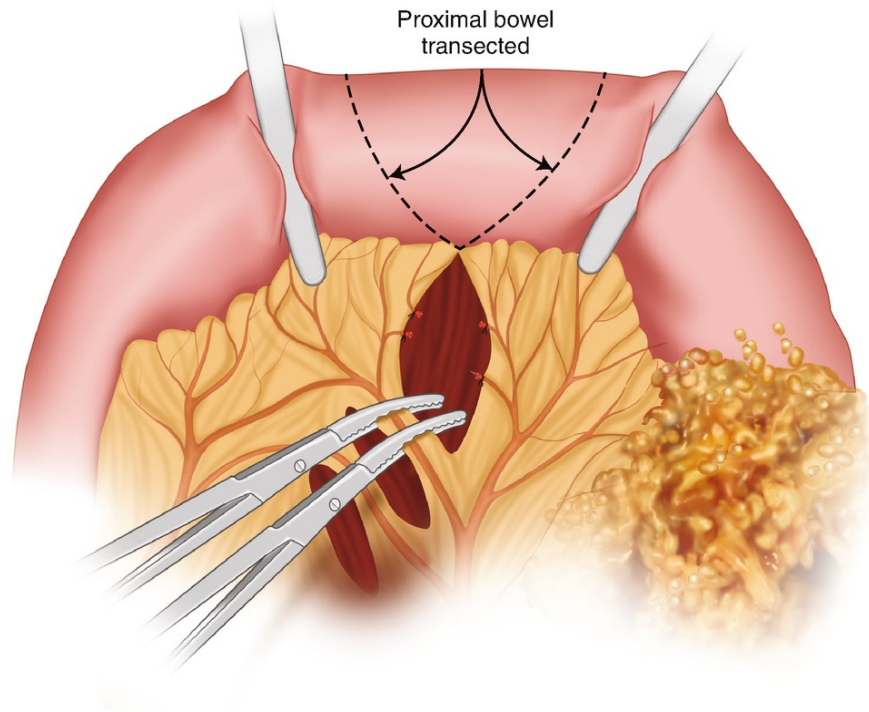
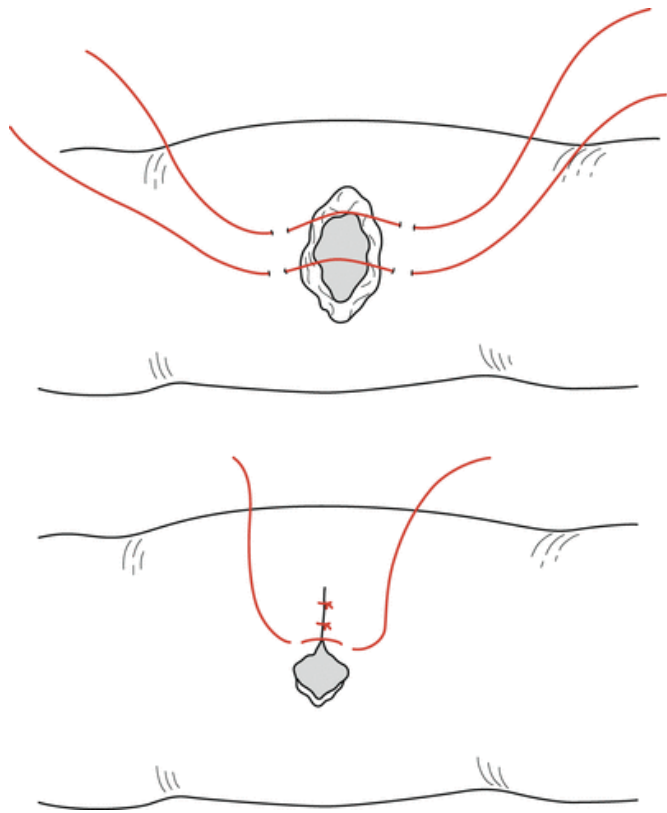


# Peritonitis



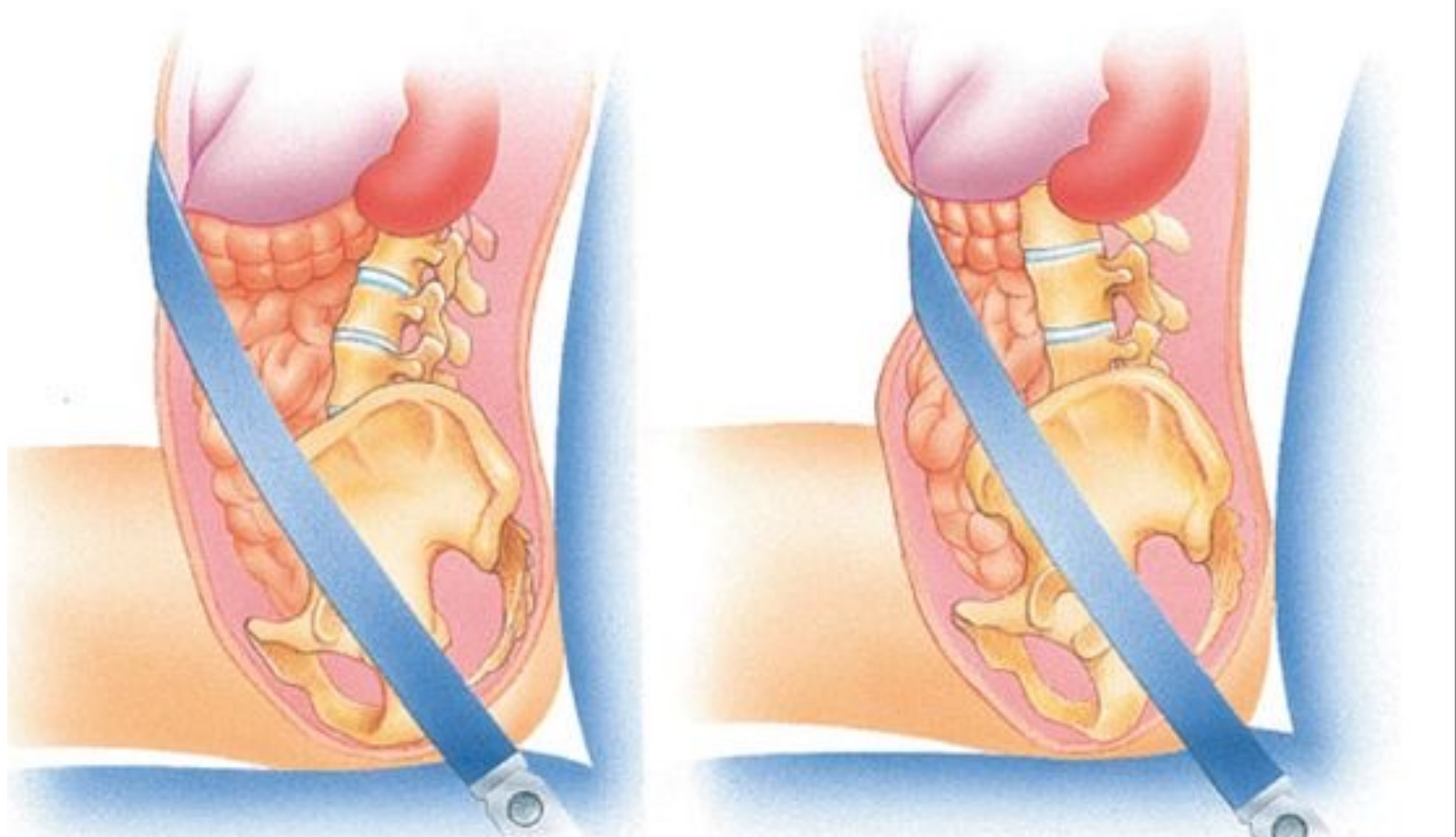




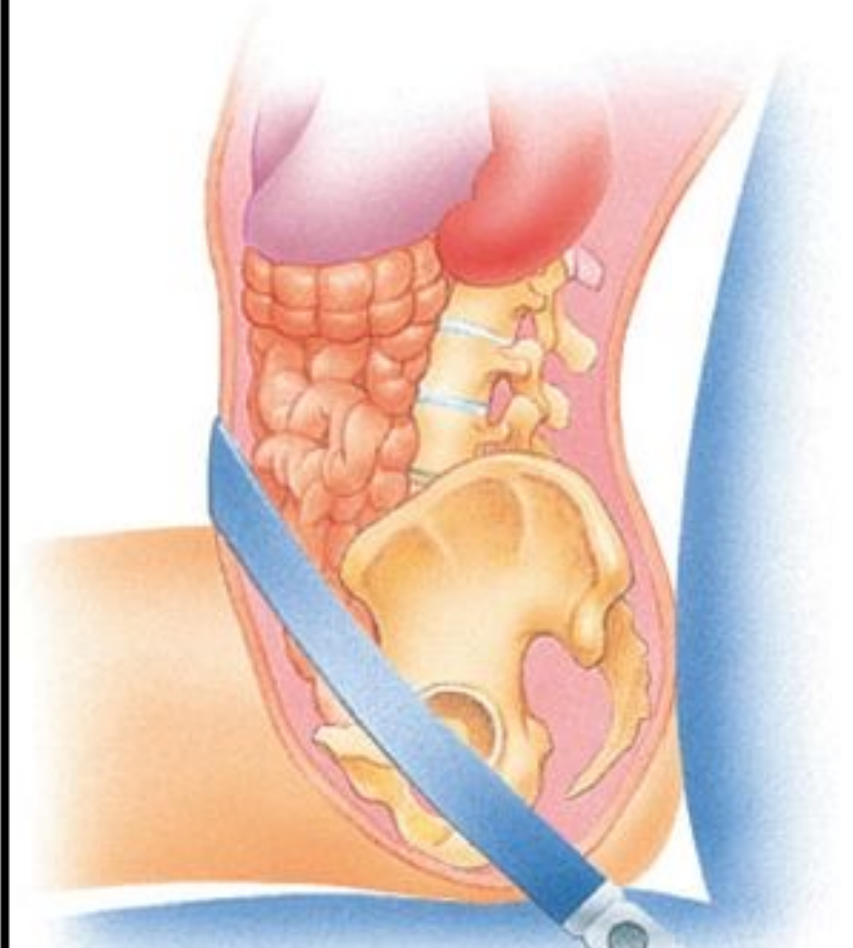


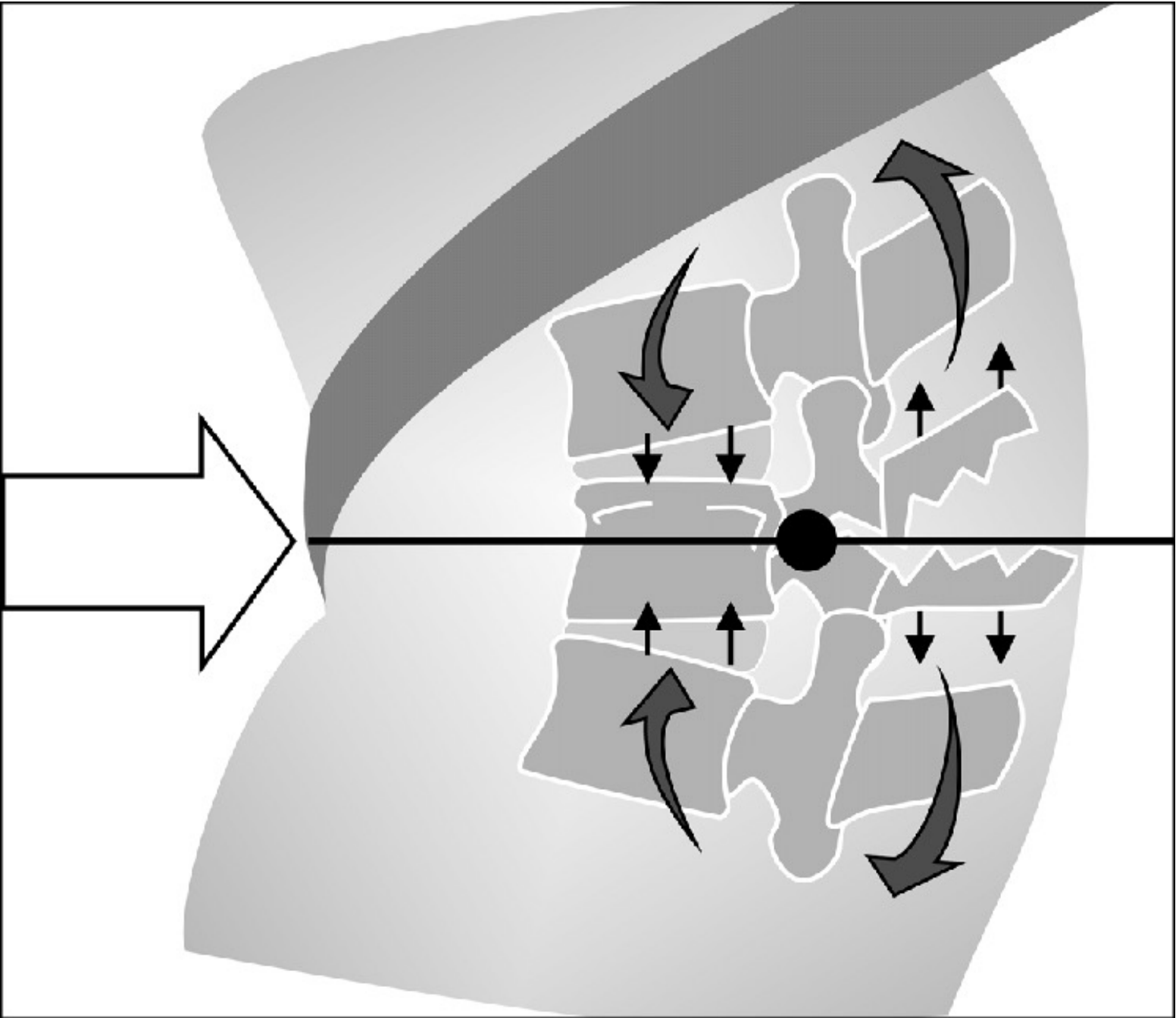


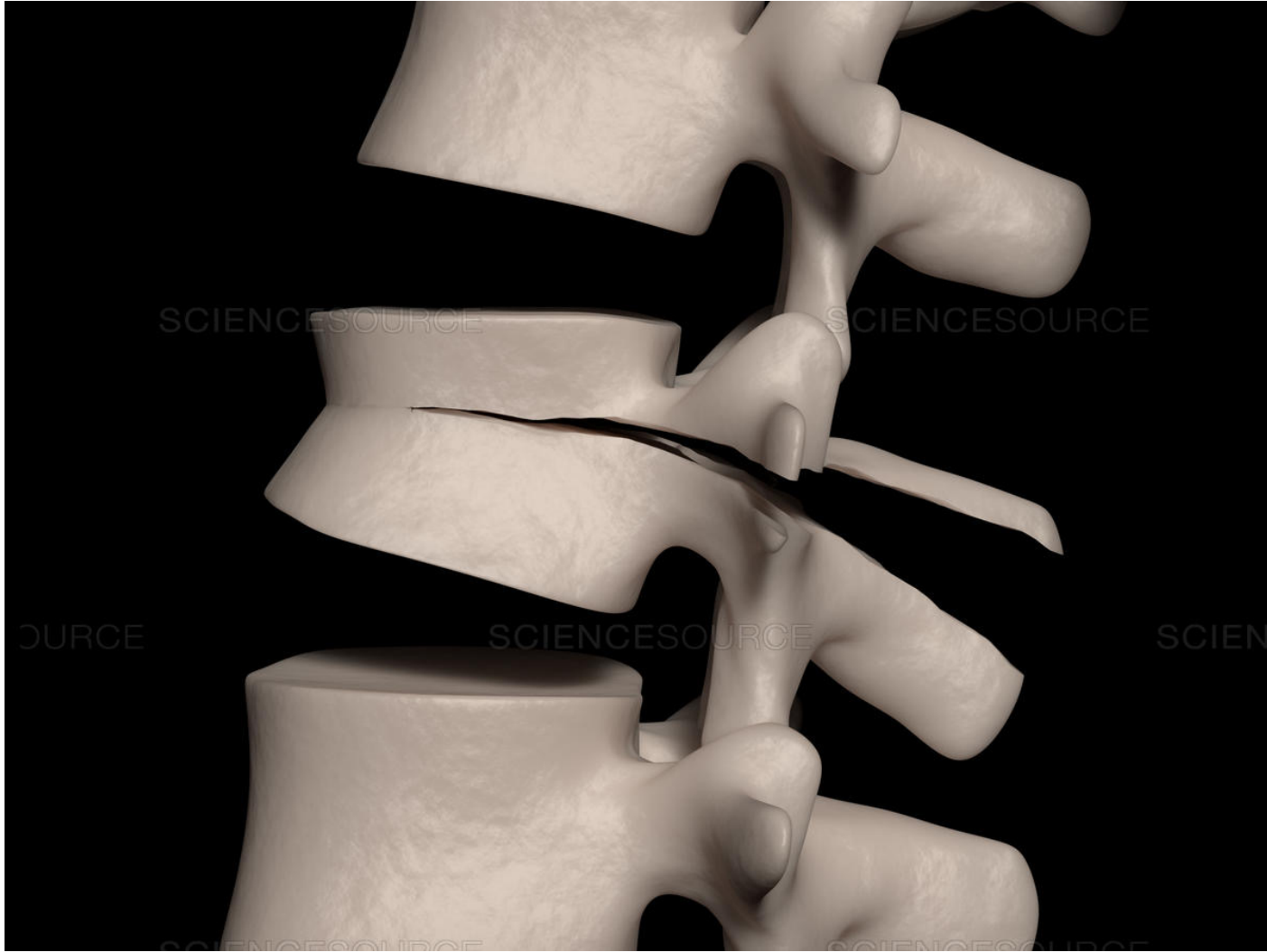
Incorrect position



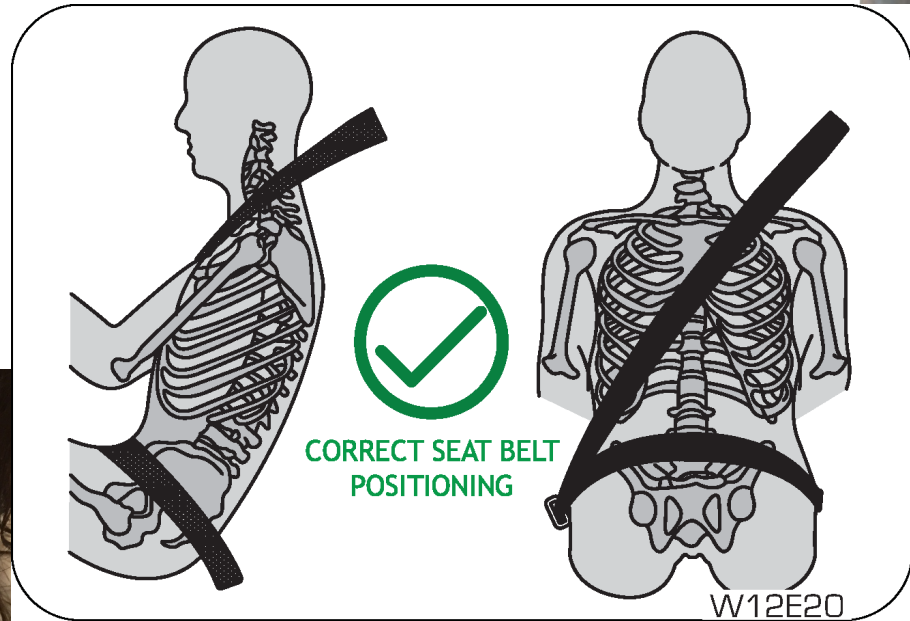
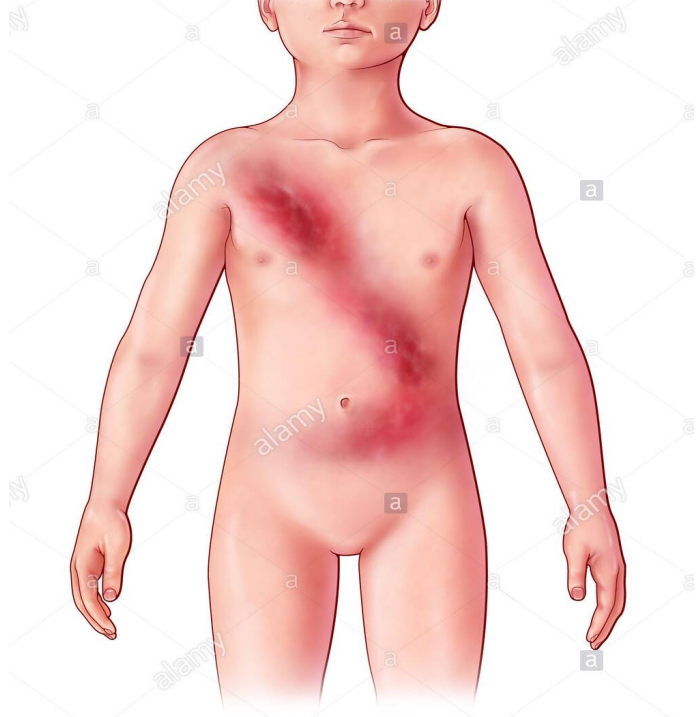
Correct position















True or False: Best outcomes for traumatic intestinal perforation can only be achieved with immediate diagnosis and surgical intervention?

1. True

2. False



True or False: Best outcomes for traumatic intestinal perforation can only be achieved with immediate diagnosis and surgical intervention?

**2. False**

# Contact:

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Hospital Colorado, Colorado Springs

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(719) 305-9035



**ONE CALL  
(719) 305-3999**

Children's Hospital  
Colorado



CHILDREN'S

REACH

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