

INTRODUCTION

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Abdominal distension is a common complaint in most pediatric clinics . It presents a big problem both for the pediatrician as well as for the parents. In spite it is apparent for both the pediatrician and the parents , it presents a challenging obstacle for diagnosis . Abdominal distension may result from a big variety of causes . It can be caused by very simple and safe causes as well as a very serious disease .

The diagnostic possibilities may be rapidly narrowed by informations supplied by the history and a careful physical examination .

This present essay is a trial to mention most causes of abdominal distension , signs , symptoms , and investigations for diagnosis . The problem of diagnosis may be simplified by classifying the causes into intra-abdominal and extra-abdominal causes . Patients with intra-abdominal causes may be classified into three groups :

- A group with intra-abdominal fluid collection .
- A group of tympanetic abdominal distension , and
- A group with a palpable intra-abdominal swelling .

This essay is not intended to be a text , but only to draw the attention to this big problem .