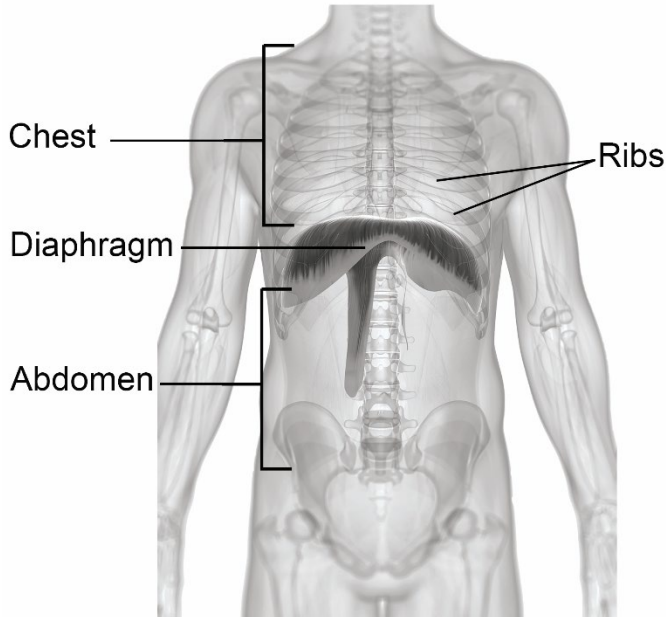


Ascites

What is ascites?

Ascites (pronounced “uh-site-ees”) is the buildup of fluid in the abdomen, or belly. This area of the body is below the ribs. The diaphragm separates it from the chest.



What causes ascites?

- Cancer
- Congestive heart failure
- Kidney failure
- Liver disease
- Salt and water retention

What are the signs?

- Swelling in the belly
- Feeling full
- Sudden weight gain
- Breathing difficulty and shortness of breath

How is ascites treated?

Treatment for ascites has several goals:

- Remove the excess fluid
- Find and treat the cause of the fluid buildup
- Prevent fluid from building up again

The type of treatment depends on the cause of the fluid buildup. Your health care team may place small tubes to drain the fluid for longer-term relief. Your doctor may use a needle to draw out the fluid (called paracentesis). Some patients need medicines so they make more urine. This helps remove extra fluid from the body.

When should I call my doctor?

- Call your cancer care team if you have any signs of ascites.
- Call your cancer care team right away or go to the emergency room if you have bleeding you cannot control after paracentesis.

Contact your cancer care team via MyChart or call

_____.

In an emergency, call 911 or go to your closest emergency department.