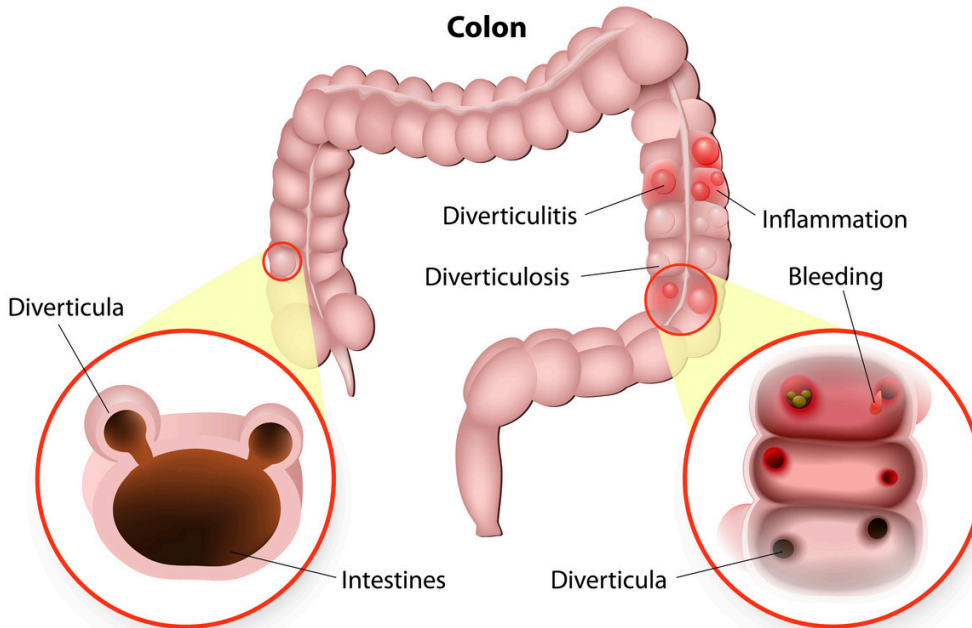




DIVERTICULAR DISEASE



Abnormal pouches (**diverticula**) in the muscular wall of your large intestine (colon) that form in weakened areas of the bowel.

Usually occur in the sigmoid colon (high-pressure area of the lower large intestine)

Diverticulosis can sometimes develop or progress into diverticulitis.

DIVERTICULOSIS

vs

DIVERTICULITIS

Diverticulosis is the **formation** of abnormal pouches in the the bowel wall.

Diagnosis

Since diverticulosis is often asymptomatic (without symptoms), it tends to be discovered during examinations for other conditions such as colorectal cancer.

Symptoms

Usually asymptomatic, but when many diverticula (pouches) are present, the bowel can be affected: Abdominal Pain | Bloating | Constipation | Diarrhea | Flatulence | Anemia | Blood in stool

Treatment

There is no proven way to prevent the formation of new diverticula. Treatment revolves around the settling of symptoms, if they emerge.

Diverticulitis is the **inflammation** of the abnormal pouches.

Diverticulitis is usually diagnosed during an acute attack.

Constipation | Sharp pain | Fever | Bloating | Nausea and vomiting | Can lead to bleeding and obstruction

Change of diet | Antibiotics | Surgery (rarely)

