

COLITIS

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There are two types of colitides: IBD (discussed in Chapter 75) and non-IBD. The non-IBD causes can be grouped into infective and non-infective causes, with infective being by far the most common. The majority of non-IBD colitides present acutely with severity ranging from a self-limiting illness to severe disease necessitating emergency colectomy . A careful history of acute onset and potential predisposing factors, including the use of antibiotics, is often key . Investigations include stool culture, serology and inflammatory markers. Supine abdominal radiographs may demonstrate bowel oedema, colonic distension or, in severe cases, gas in the bowel wall. CT may determine the extent of disease , presence of alternative pathology or resultant complications. In a deteriorating patient awaiting cultures, endoscopic biopsies may also be helpful.

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