

DIVERTICULAR DISEASE

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Diverticula (hollow outpouchings) are a common structural abnormality of the gastrointestinal tract. They can be classified as: /uni25CF congenital : all three coats of the bowel are present in the wall of the diverticulum (e.g. Meckel's diverticulum). /uni25CF acquired : there is no muscularis layer present in the diverticulum (e.g. sigmoid diverticular disease). Diverticula are found in the left colon in around 75% of those over 70 years of age in the Western world. The condition is overwhelmingly found in the sigmoid colon but can affect the whole colon. In South East Asia right-sided diverticular disease is more common. Diverticula are most often asymptomatic (diverticulosis) and found incidentally , but they can present clinically with sepsis or haemorrhage.

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