

# Investigation

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The modern diagnosis of an abscess is radiological using CT ( Figure 65.10 ). CT imaging can also guide treatment by drain placement or aspiration. Ultrasound is a useful (though non-specific) modality for use in select populations (e.g. paediatric or pregnant patients). Serial imaging is used to monitor treatment efficacy or disease progression. Radiolabelled white cell scanning may occasionally prove helpful if an abscess is suspected but has not been identified by the above means. Investigation

There is often a leukocytosis of  $10 \times 10^9$ – $12 \times 10^9$  /L ( $10$ – $12 \times 10^9$  /L) or more on the first day of the attack, but this falls on the second day . Ultrasonography may be helpful in differentiating this from appendicitis. Sometimes a CT or exploratory laparoscopy is required. Investigation

A plain film of the abdomen is frequently diagnostic. CT is recommended when planning operative intervention.

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