

Radiological imaging

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Plain radiology is rarely used in investigation, but the incidental finding of calcification of the splenic artery or spleen may raise the possible diagnosis of a splenic artery aneurysm, an old infarct, a benign cyst or hydatid disease . Multiple areas of calcification may suggest splenic tuberculosis. Ultrasonography can determine the size and consistency of the spleen and whether a cyst is present. However, computed tomography (CT) with contrast enhancement is more commonly undertaken to better characterise the nature of the suspected splenic pathology and to exclude other intra-abdominal pathology . Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) may be similarly useful, especially as T2-weighted images allow cystic lesions to be distinguished.

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