

RETROPERITONEAL SPACE COLLECTIONS

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These are fluid collections in the retroperitoneal space and these differ from intraperitoneal collections because of their location (Figure 65.21). They are a common finding in moderate to severe acute pancreatitis. Fluid accumulates as a result of pancreatic inflammation, dissecting the left mesocolon off the underlying fascia and posterior abdominal wall. With continued expansion retroperitoneal space collections track subperitoneally around the flanks. A rapidly expanding retroperitoneal collection, such as occurs with a ruptured aortic aneurysm, may rupture intraperitoneally .

Mesorectum Fascia (b)

Intraoperative appearance

Mesenteric principles of gastro

(b)

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