

# Splenic abscess

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Splenic abscess may arise from an infected splenic embolus or in association with typhoid and paratyphoid fever, osteomyelitis, otitis media and puerperal sepsis. In general surgical practice, it may be associated with pancreatic necrosis or other intra-abdominal infection ( Figure 70.10 ). An abscess may rupture and form a left subphrenic abscess or result in diffuse peritonitis. Treatment involves that of the underlying cause; percutaneous drainage of the splenic abscess under radiological guidance is normally required, with splenectomy being reserved when interventional radiology is not available.

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