

VOLVULUS

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A volvulus is a twist of the intestine and the mesentery that supplies it (Figure 77.16). It is most commonly seen in the sigmoid colon, where elongation of the colon and mesentery with a narrow posterior attachment exists in some patients. can, however, occur in patients with a hypermobile caecum and rarely in the transverse colon. Patients with sigmoid volvulus tend to be elderly and institutionalised; however, in West African countries it is more commonly seen in younger patients. Patients presenting with a caecal volvulus are usually younger and otherwise well. Predisposing factors include adhesions, gastric banding, pelvic masses and pregnancy .

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