

Evidence Discussion: Post-Operative Pain Within 60 Days Following Abdominal Surgery-Abdominal Procedure (AB 7.1)

Early investigation with advanced imaging is indicated to identify post-operative/post-procedural complications. Most complications manifest within the first 2 months.

CT imaging is the mainstay for abdominal imaging in the post-operative period due to its high resolution and speed. It is particularly effective at identifying abdominal fluid collections in the peri-hepatic and peri-splenic areas, as well as in the pelvis. CT may also differentiate between post-operative seromas, hematomas, and abscesses, aiding in the drainage of these collections. The use of contrast is recommended to enhance diagnostic accuracy.

References:

1. ACR Appropriateness Criteria® Acute (non-localized) Abdominal Pain and Fever or Suspected Abdominal Abscess. American College of Radiology, Published 2012. Rev. 2018.