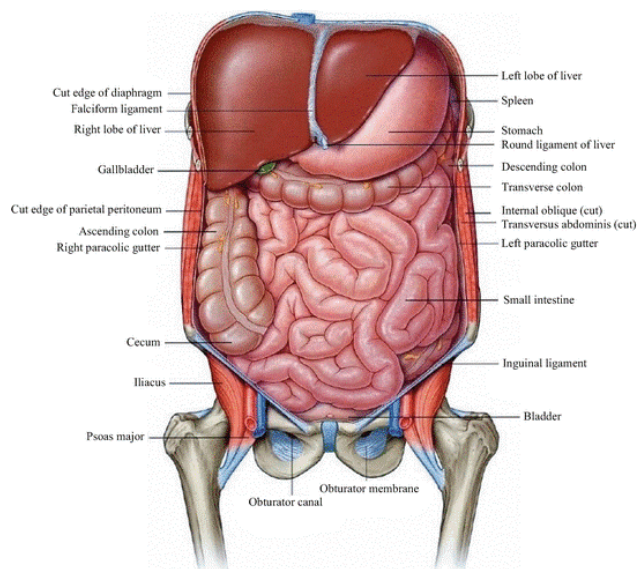


Abdominal Organs



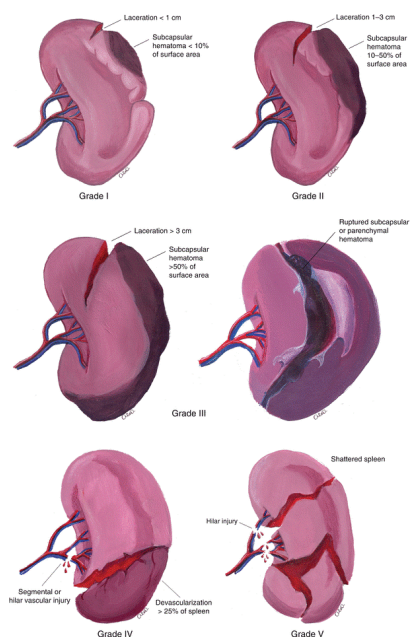
Abdominal viscera (greater omentum removed)

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Your child's blunt organ injury diagnosis is:

Your pediatric trauma surgeon is:

Spleen injury illustrations by grade



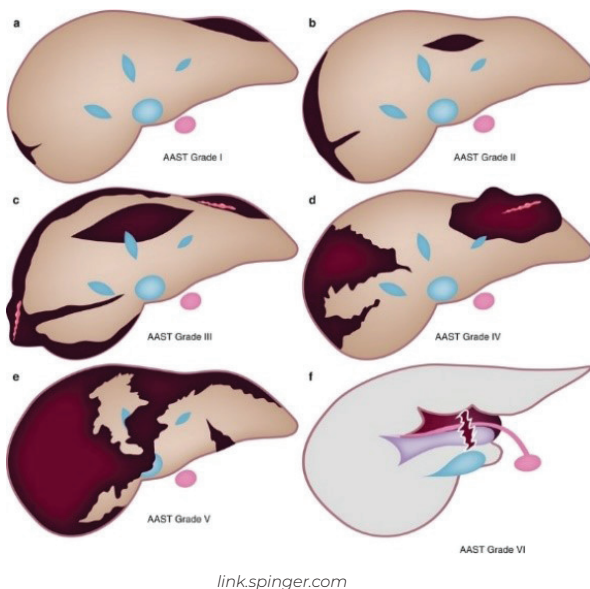
link.springer.com

Spleen Injuries

- The spleen is located in the upper left area of your belly and sits behind the stomach. Most injuries are caused by blunt trauma from a car crash, fall, bike accident or other activity that causes a hard blow to the abdomen.
- The spleen is an important organ, but you can live without it. It filters and removes old blood cells and bacteria. It also makes red blood cells and is important in helping the body fight infection.
- Spleen injuries are graded from 1-5 by the size of the injury (1 is the least severe).
- Most spleen injuries do not need surgery. In rare cases a surgery is needed to remove the spleen. If the spleen is removed, the protective nature of the spleen is also removed. To help replace antibody function, your child will need new vaccinations to help fight infection.

Pediatric Blunt Trauma Solid Organ Injury: Spleen or Liver

Liver injury illustrations by grade:



Liver Injuries

- The liver is located in the right upper area of the abdomen, right below the diaphragm. Because of its size, the liver is the most easily injured abdominal organ in children. Most injuries are caused by blunt trauma from a car crash, fall, bike accident or any activity that causes a hard blow to the abdomen.
- The liver is the largest solid organ in the body and is necessary for survival. It makes bile which helps with digestion; it filters and cleans the blood and removes bacteria; it stores carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals; it makes proteins, glucose and clotting factors; it breaks down hormones and certain drugs.
- Liver injuries are graded from 1-5 by the size and location of the injury (1 is the least severe).
- Most liver injuries do not need surgery. If bleeding from the liver does not stop on its own, a procedure or surgery may be needed to stop the bleeding.

Medications

- Tylenol may be given for pain. No NSAID (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory) medications such as ibuprofen, Advil, Aleve, or aspirin for 6 weeks. NSAIDs may alter platelet function and increase the risk for bleeding.
- If your child is prescribed a narcotic (such as oxycodone), use this medication for severe breakthrough pain after trying Tylenol. Dispose of any unused narcotics by mixing the medicine with an undesirable substance (coffee grounds or kitty litter) and placing the mixture in a sealed bag or other container in the trash.

Follow up at Logan Health Children's Specialists

in _____ weeks.

Logan Health Children's Specialists
Pediatric Surgery
202 Conway Drive, Suite 200
Kalispell, MT
(406) 758-7490

Follow up

- Please call the Pediatric Surgery office for nausea, vomiting, increased or uncontrolled pain, fever greater than 101 degrees, shortness of breath, lethargy, dizziness, fainting, blood in urine, stool or vomit, or other concerns.
- Make sure your child is secured in an age-appropriate restraint each time they ride in a vehicle. Children under 13 are safer in the backseat in a proper restraint. Make sure your child wears a helmet when riding a bike, using other wheeled toys, when skiing, or when taking part in other active sports.