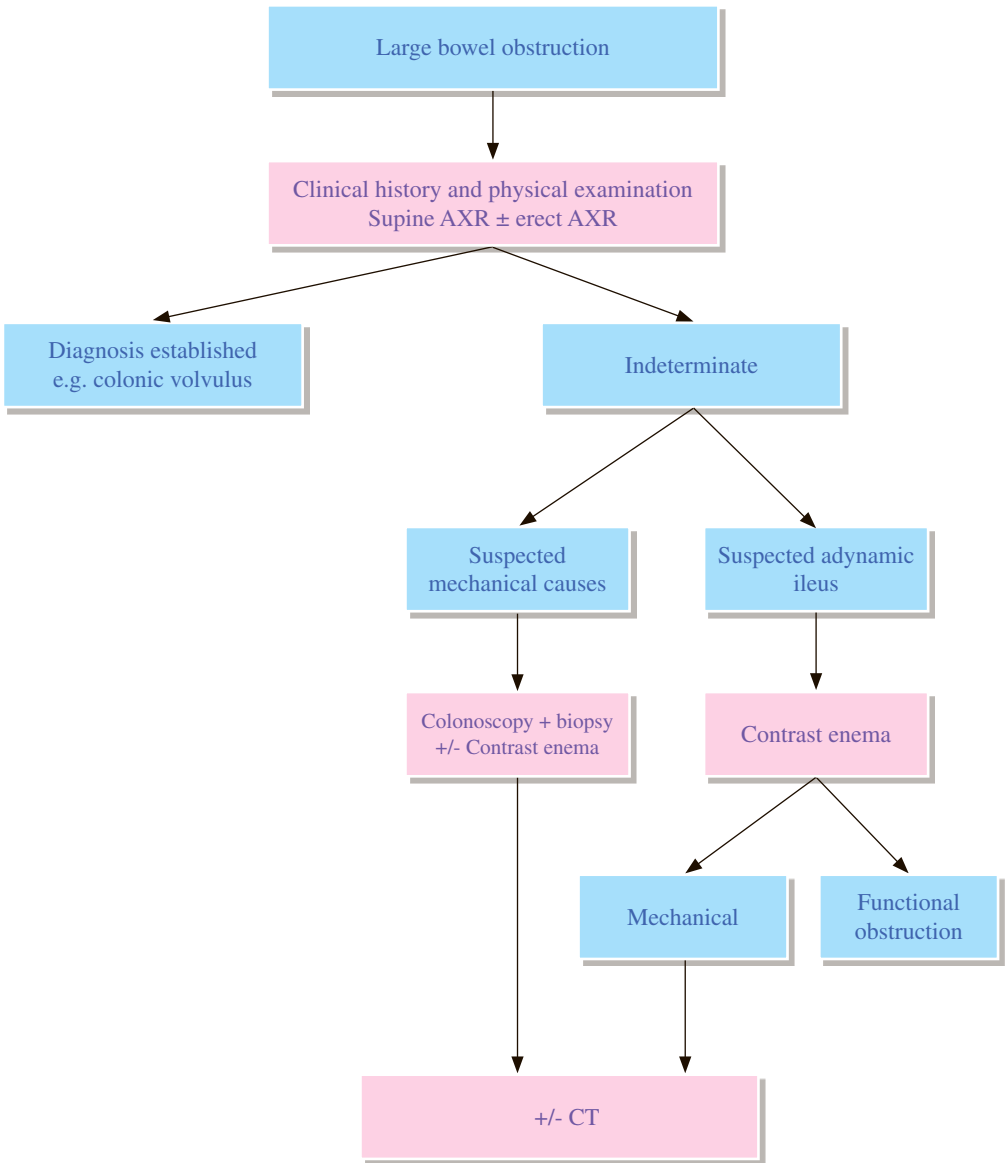


GI 8 Large bowel obstruction



REMARKS

1 Plain radiograph

- 1.1 When acute large bowel obstruction is suspected, abdominal X-ray (AXR) may be used as an initial examination to help establish the diagnosis and to indicate the likely level.¹
- 1.2 Erect AXR is not indicated routinely. It may be taken when supine AXR is normal but there is strong clinical suspicion of bowel obstruction.

2 CT

- 2.1 CT is the investigation of choice after AXR. It will confirm the diagnosis, delineate the level of acute large bowel obstruction and can also identify the cause.²
- 2.2 CT is also used for evaluation of extrinsic lesions and for staging of confirmed carcinoma.

3 Contrast enema

- 3.1 Helps to exclude pseudo-obstruction.
- 3.2 May consider it for problem solving if CT is not available or equivocal.¹

REFERENCES

1. Canadian Association of Radiologists. 2012 CAR Diagnostic Imaging Referral Guidelines. Ottawa: Canadian Association of Radiologists; 2012. Section G17.
2. The Royal College of Radiologists. iRefer: Making the best use of clinical radiology. 7th ed. London: The Royal College of Radiologists; 2012. Section G17.