

Intussusception in Children

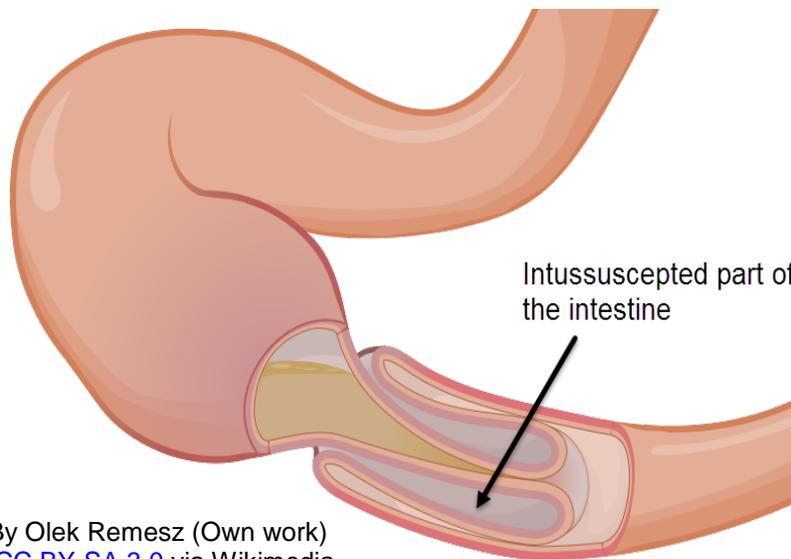
Care Instructions After Air Enema Reduction

Your child was seen today in Children's Emergency Services and treated for intussusception.

What is intussusception?

Intussusception is a medical condition where one part of the bowel folds into itself, like a telescope (see picture below). Symptoms can include intense belly pain that comes in waves, holding knees up to the chest, decreased alertness, and blood in the stool. These symptoms occur because the section of the intestine affected becomes swollen and painful and may lose some or all of its blood supply.

If not treated, this condition can cause life-threatening problems. These problems can include death of the bowel tissue, a hole in the intestine, or an abdominal infection.



By Olek Remesz (Own work)
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What is the treatment for Intussusception?

Your child was treated for this condition today with an air enema to unfold the intestine. Following treatment, your child was watched in Children's Emergency Services for at least 6 hours to be sure their symptoms resolved after treatment. At this time, it is safe for your child to go home. Your child has been able to drink fluids and has no further signs of intussusception.

How can I care for my child at home?

- Have your child rest until they feel better.
- Give your child lots of fluids, enough so that the urine is light yellow color.
- Feed your child their normal diet.

There is a small chance that your child's symptoms could recur at home and for this reason we would like you to closely monitor your child for any return of symptoms such as:

- Belly pain
- Vomiting
- Persistent crying or irritability
- Inability to eat or drink
- Persistent tiredness or changes in behavior

If your child has any of these symptoms, please **call your child's primary doctor for advice or return an Emergency Department right away**. Your child may have recurrence of intussusception. Make sure you notify your child's primary care doctor or the intake nurse at the Emergency Department that your child previously had intussusception.

When do I need to call 911?

Call 911 anytime you think your child may need emergency care. For example, call if:

- Your child passes out or is difficult to wake up
- Your child vomits blood or what looks like coffee grounds

What is the Follow up care?

The Pediatric Surgery team will call you over the next few days to see how your child is doing and to answer any questions you might have.

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