

KEY WORDS referred pain

Use the nine-region grid and the three gut territories to localise visceral pain.

Nine regions; coeliac (foregut), superior mesenteric (midgut), inferior mesenteric (hindgut).

Foregut T5–9 epigastric; midgut T10–12 umbilical; hindgut L1–3 hypogastric ✓. Appendicitis: umbilical first, right iliac second (parietal join) ✓.

2.1 Which artery supplies the transverse colon to its distal third? [3]

2.2 To which band does gallbladder pain refer? [3]

2.3 Above the pectinate line, is bleeding typically painful? [3]

Place the organ by territory and band. Explain the shoulder referral (phrenic C4 shared segment). Predict what imaging would show and why the pain localises poorly at first. [7]

Use the pectinate line to argue the source is likely above it. State the artery of the hindgut and its major branch at risk. Explain why painlessness itself narrows the differential. [7]

3 Exam-style questions