

Physiology of the Abdomen

In order to accurately assess the patient's abdomen for abdominal pain the anatomy of the abdomen must be known. All areas of the abdomen are assessed which include organs in the RUQ which include liver, gallbladder, right kidney, colon, pancreas head, and parts of the ascending and transverse colon. The LUQ of the abdomen contains the organs (Fritz & Weillitz, 2016). The LUQ organs contain the spleen, left kidney, stomach, the left lobe of the liver, pancreas body, partially the transverse and descending colon (Fritz & Weillitz, 2016). The RLQ of the abdominal organs are the appendix, the cecum, the right ureter, and the right iliac artery. In females, the right ovary and the right fallopian tube are present in the RLQ of the abdomen. In males, the right spermatic cord is located in the RLQ of the abdomen (Fritz & Weillitz, 2016). The LLQ abdominal organs are the sigmoid colon, descending colon partially, the left iliac artery, and the left ureter. Female anatomy of the LLQ of the abdomen includes the left ovary and fallopian tube. Male anatomy of the LLQ of the abdomen includes the left spermatic cord.

Subjective Data of the Abdomen

A patient will present with a common abdominal chief complaint which are commonly abdominal pain or soreness, nausea/vomiting, lack of appetite, change in weight, difficulty swallowing with drinking and/or eating, constipation, and diarrhea. Subjective data is obtained by completion of a focused abdominal assessment. During the focused assessment interviewing the patient to investigate and gather information regarding the patient's abdominal complaint is important. Good interviewing questions include asking the patient how their bowel habits usually