

# EFSUMB Recommendations and Guidelines for Gastrointestinal Ultrasound Part 6: EFSUMB Guidelines GIUS Intestinal Emergencies Position Paper

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**Standards and Guidelines**

Radiology & Imaging

Surgery

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**European experts review gastrointestinal ultrasound for three time-critical acute abdomen emergencies: bowel obstruction, perforation, and ischemic bowel disease.**

## KEY POINTS

- For small bowel obstruction, gastrointestinal ultrasound shows sensitivity and specificity comparable to computed tomography and superior to plain X-ray, may save time and radiation exposure, and directly displays bowel function.
- In gastrointestinal perforation, ultrasound has relatively high sensitivity in experienced hands but computed tomography remains the most sensitive method.
- In acute arterial mesenteric ischemia, prompt computed tomography angiography is the gold standard, though gastrointestinal ultrasound may provide information.
- For ischemic colitis, gastrointestinal ultrasound shows typical features with diagnostic performance similar to computed tomography and helps differentiate mild from severe disease.

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