

Fast Facts

Spleen

- Located in the upper left part of your abdomen next to your stomach
- Protected by your rib cage (unless it is enlarged)
- Varies in shape and size (usually is fist-shaped and four inches long)
- Multiple roles in your body function (main job is to filter the blood)
- Process removes old red blood cells and produces/stores platelets and white blood cells
- Fights certain kinds of bacteria that cause pneumonia and meningitis

Enlarged Spleen (Splenomegaly)

Ruptured Spleen

<i>Symptoms</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Symptoms</i>	<i>Treatment</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Symptoms rare -Can't eat a large meal -Discomfort/fullness/pain in upper left side of abdomen (can spread to left shoulder) -If pain gets worse when taking a deep breath, then you need to be evaluated by a doctor immediately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wait and see approach -Limit activities that could rupture the spleen (no contact sports) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pain in upper left abdomen that radiates to left shoulder -Blurred vision -Lightheadedness -Confusion -Fainting -Anxiety/restlessness -Nausea -Paleness -Shock (a sudden drop in blood pressure and heart rate—sign condition is severe) -Abdomen may feel hard and swollen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Emergency surgery to remove spleen and to control the bleeding

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