



# Hernia (abdominal wall and groin)

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## Rationale

A hernia is an abnormal protrusion of part of a viscus through its containing wall. Hernias, in particular inguinal hernias, are very common, and thus, herniorrhaphy is a common surgical intervention.

## Causal Conditions

(list not exhaustive)

- Congenital hernia
  - a. Infantile inguinal hernia
  - b. Umbilical
- Acquired hernia
  - a. Inguinal hernia
    - Indirect
    - Direct
  - b. Femoral hernia
  - c. Umbilical hernia
  - d. Ventral (incisional) hernia

## Key Objectives

Particular attention should be paid to the physical examination and identification of the type of hernia. Non-reducible (incarcerated) hernias are at increased risk for strangulation and require emergent, rather than elective, repair.

## Enabling Objectives

Given a patient with a hernia, the candidate will

- list and interpret critical clinical findings, including
  - a. differentiate the various types of hernias on the basis of physical exam;
  - b. differentiate hernias from other causes of a groin masses;
  - c. identify hernias needing emergent surgical repair;
- list and interpret critical investigations of a patient who may have strangulation, ischemia, or bowel obstruction;
- construct an effective management plan, including
  - a. select patients in need of surgical consultation;
  - b. counsel and educate patients on the risks associated with uncorrected hernias as well as strategies to reduce post-operative recurrence (especially with ventral hernias).