CT: Gastrointestinal Applications

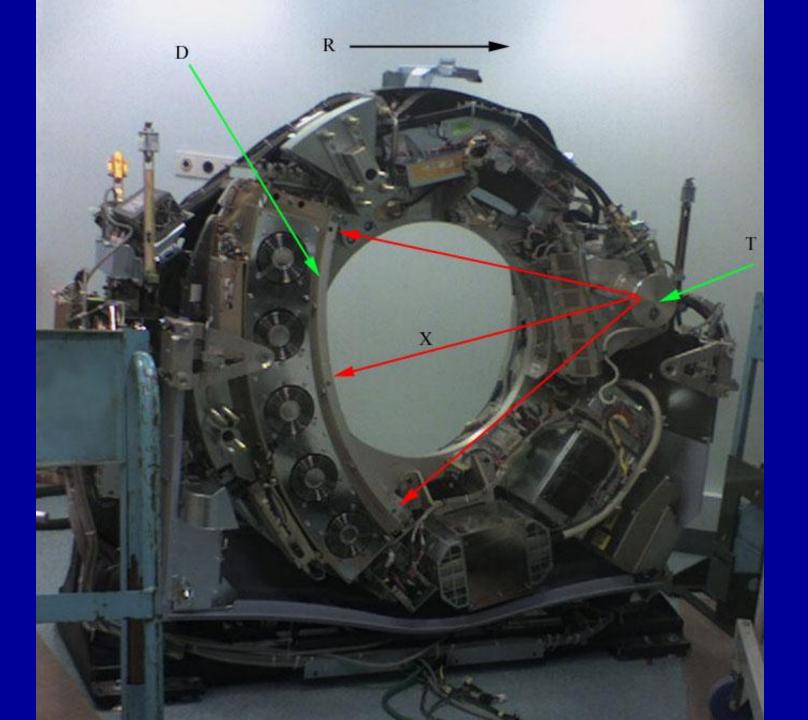
Chris Harvey
Consultant Radiologist
Hammersmith Hospital



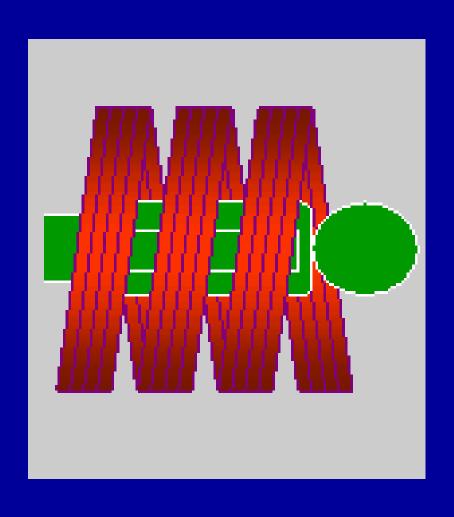
CT





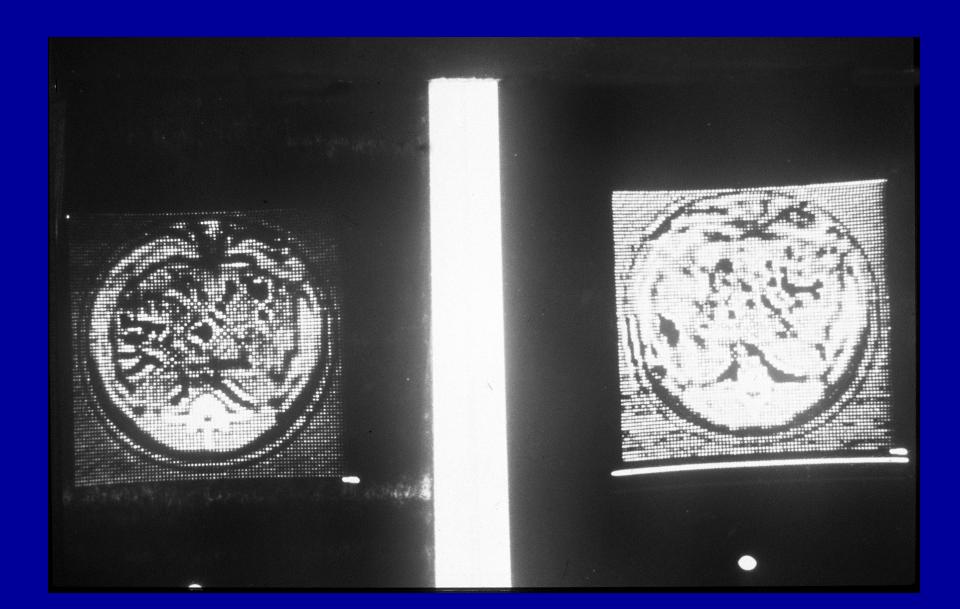


Spiral CT and multislice



CT Technology

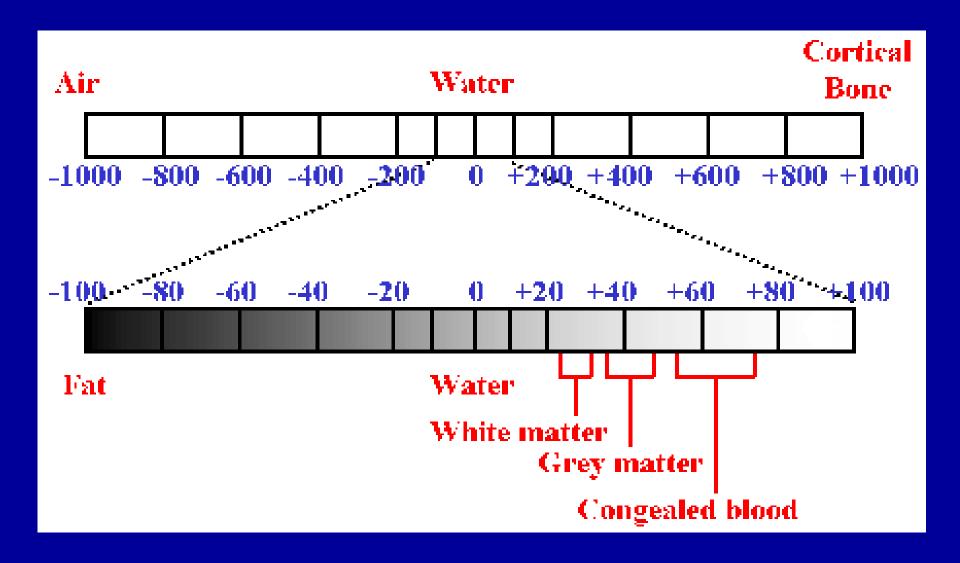
- Multidetector CT- now up to 320 rows
- subsecond revolution-cardiac CT
- Scan a volume of the body and manipulate it to produce:
 - Multiplanar reformats
 - 3D reconstruction



Hounsfield Unit (HU)

HU-Amount of x-ray absorption with reference to water Water 0 HU Air -1000 HU Calcium + 1000 HU Most solid organs approx + 30-60 HU Fat -30 to -60 HU

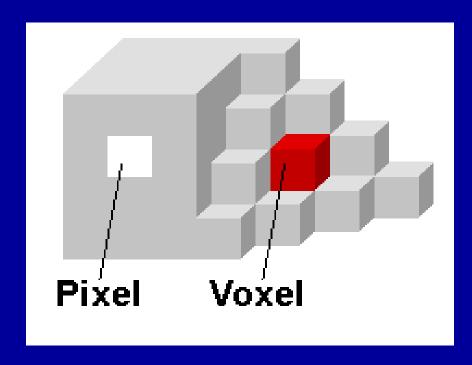
Hounsfield Scale



Window level and width

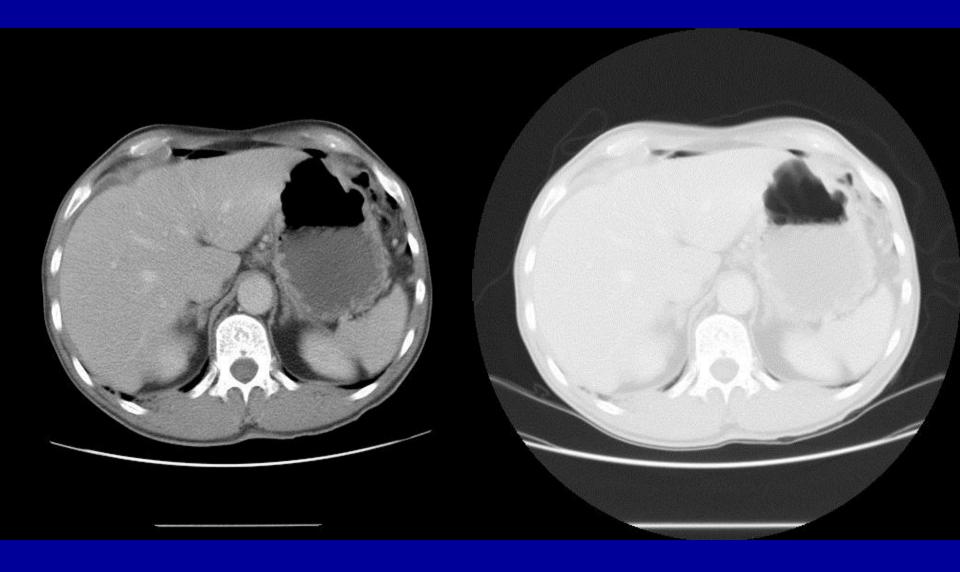
- 2000 levels of "grey"
- Eye can only see about 10
- View on soft tissue, lung, bone & brain windows
- Lungs: Window level -600
- Soft tissue : Window level +40
- Bone: Window level +300
- Window width is the range of values chosen either side of this level to produce optimum contrast resolution

Formation of a CT image



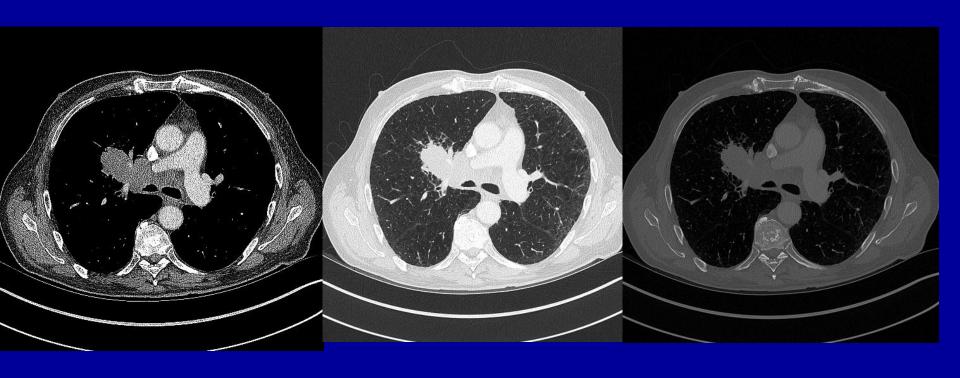
Pixel=2D concept. Each pixel has a HU number. Each CT image made up of 250,000 pixels Voxel =3D of pixels giving a measure of slice thickness.

CT abdomen





Lung Cancer



CT

- Fast- whole body scanned in 15-25 seconds
- Allows different phases of contrast enhancement

Arterial

Portal venous

Contrast agents

Iodinated agents given IV

Renal excretion

Extremely safe

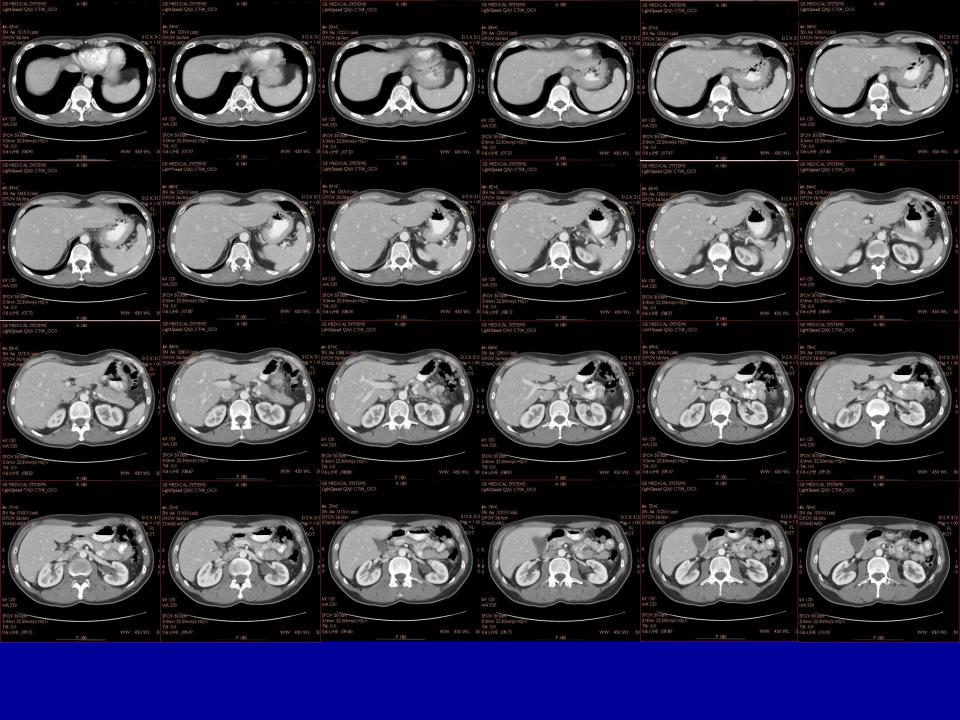
Minor side effects-flushing, taste

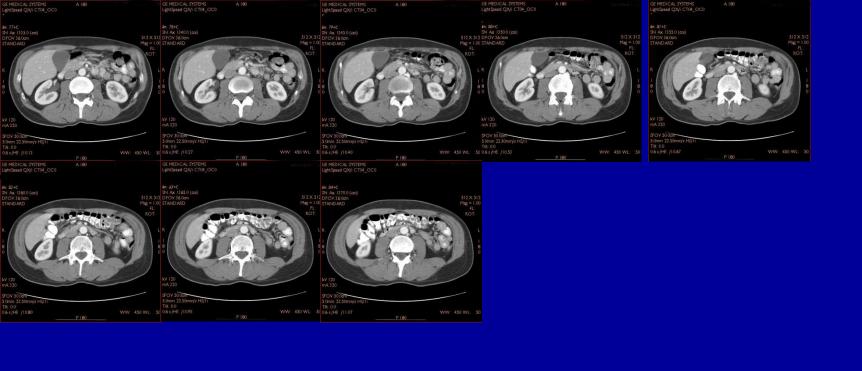
Major- bronchospasm, urticaria, anaphylaxis (1 in 50,000)

Caution-Nephrotoxicity (DM), Cardiac impairment, myeloma, sickle cell disease

Contrast agents

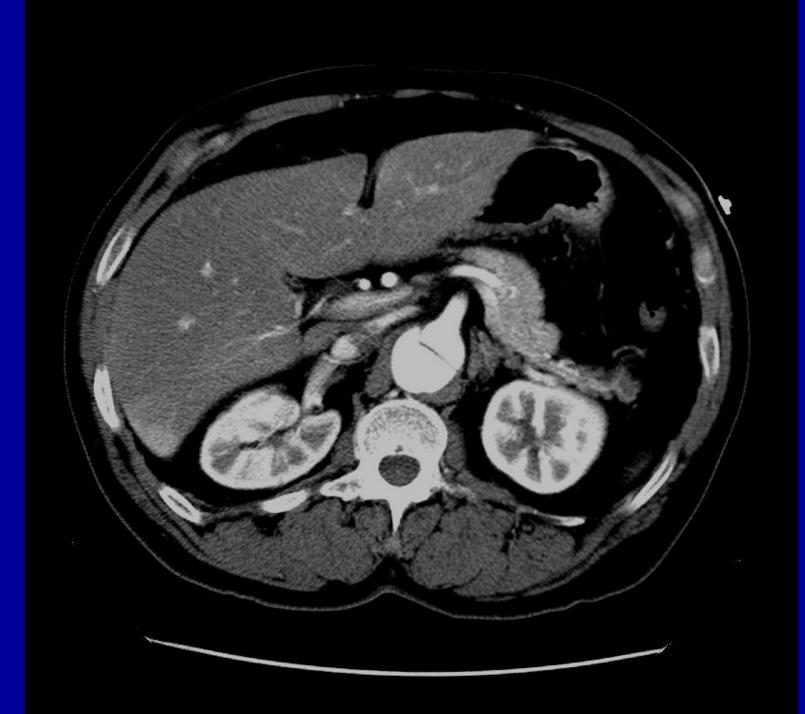
- Oral contrast agents (barium, gastrografin) 30-40 mins prior to scan
- Opacify bowel to help distinguish from nodes etc.

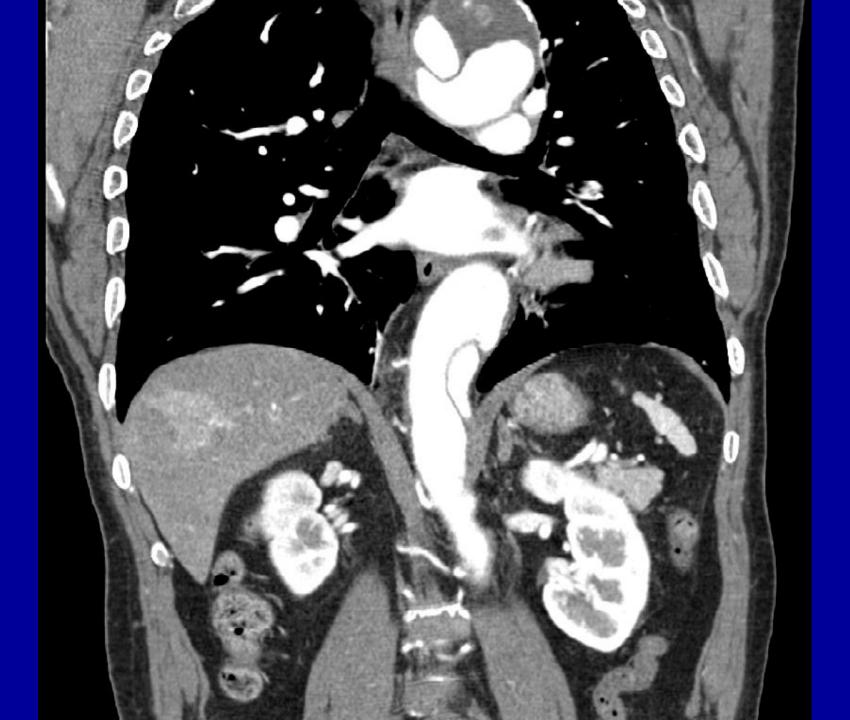




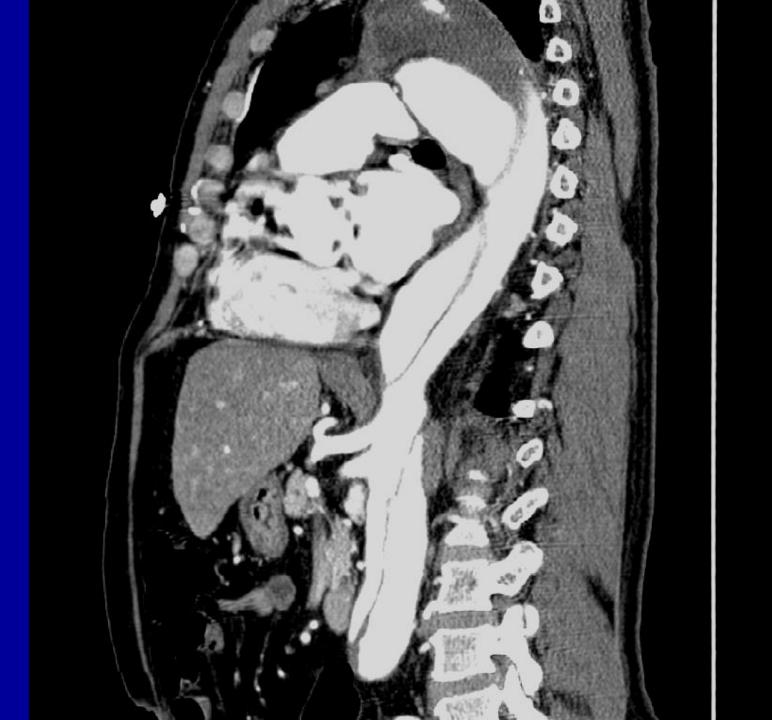
Reformats

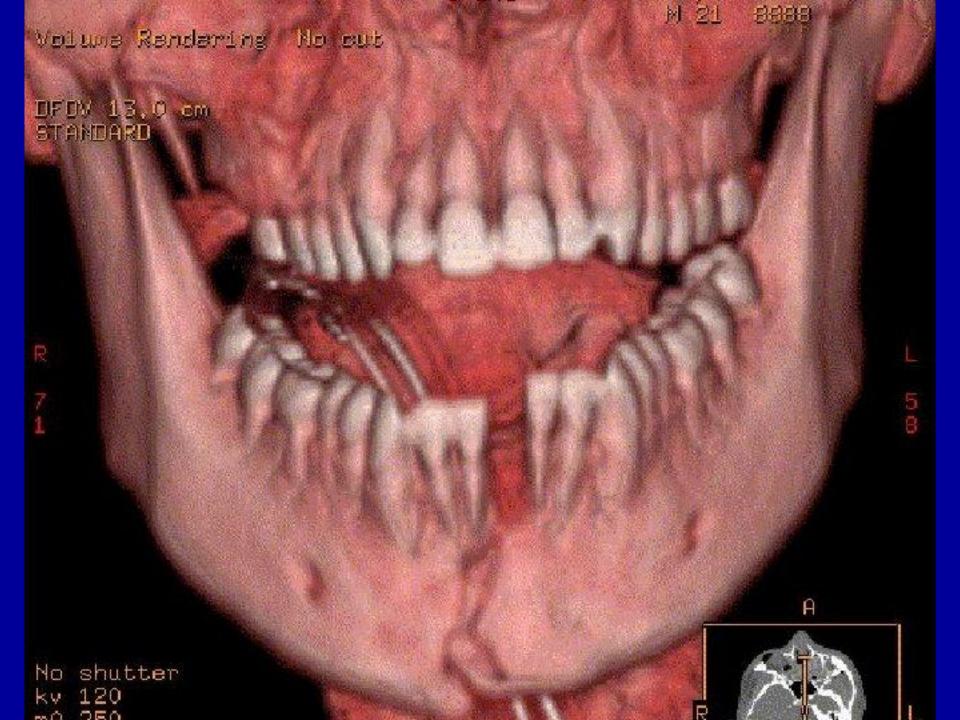
CT usually axial
Multilevel CT
Multiplanar reformats
3D Reconstruction

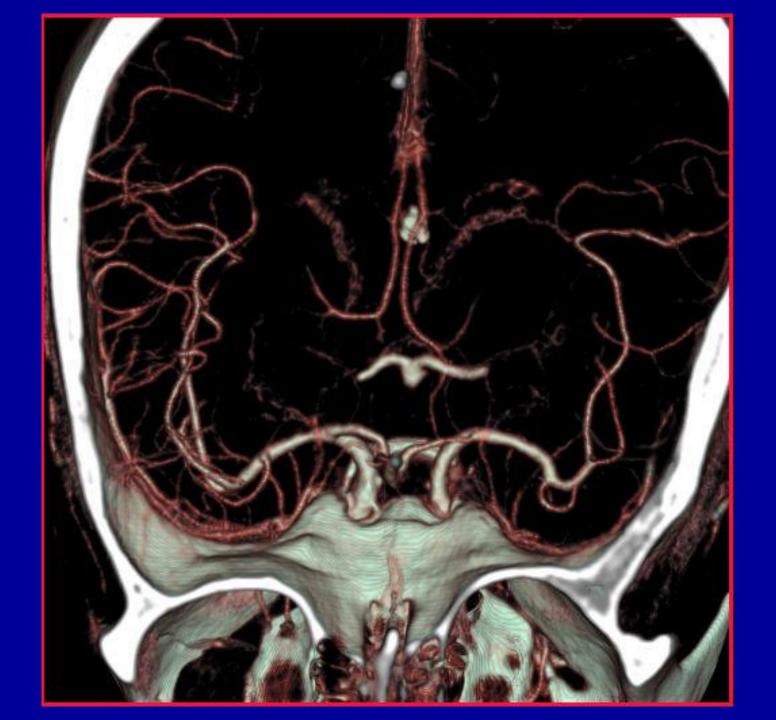


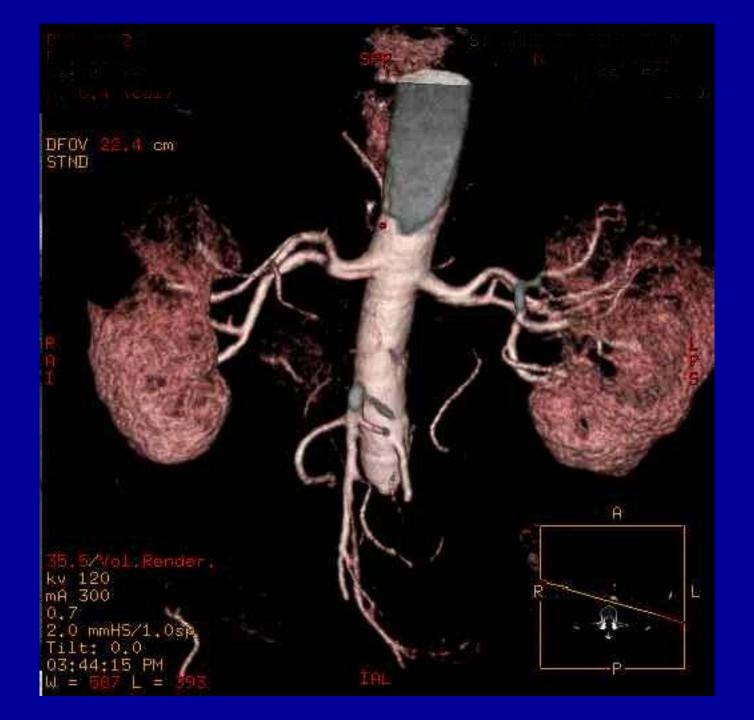


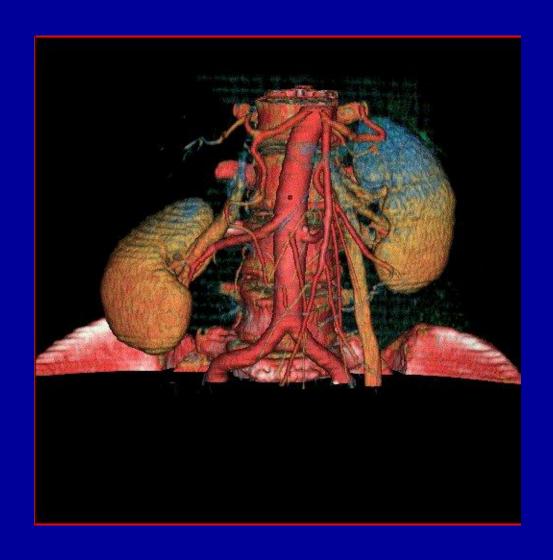


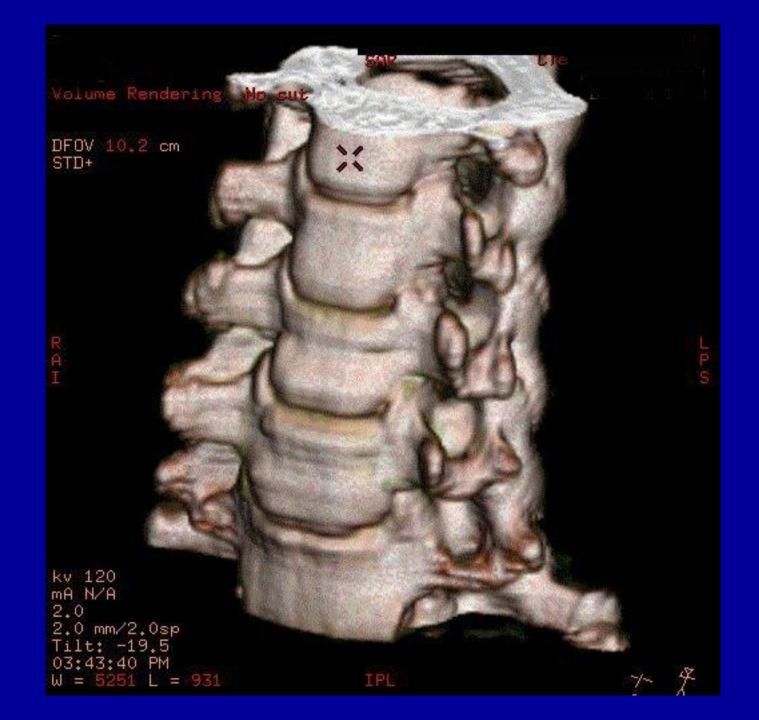






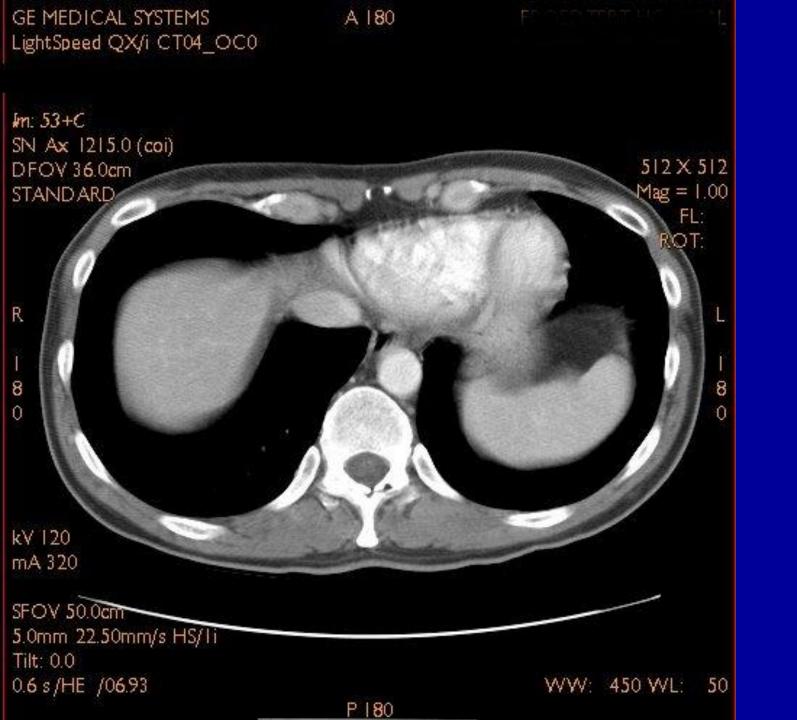


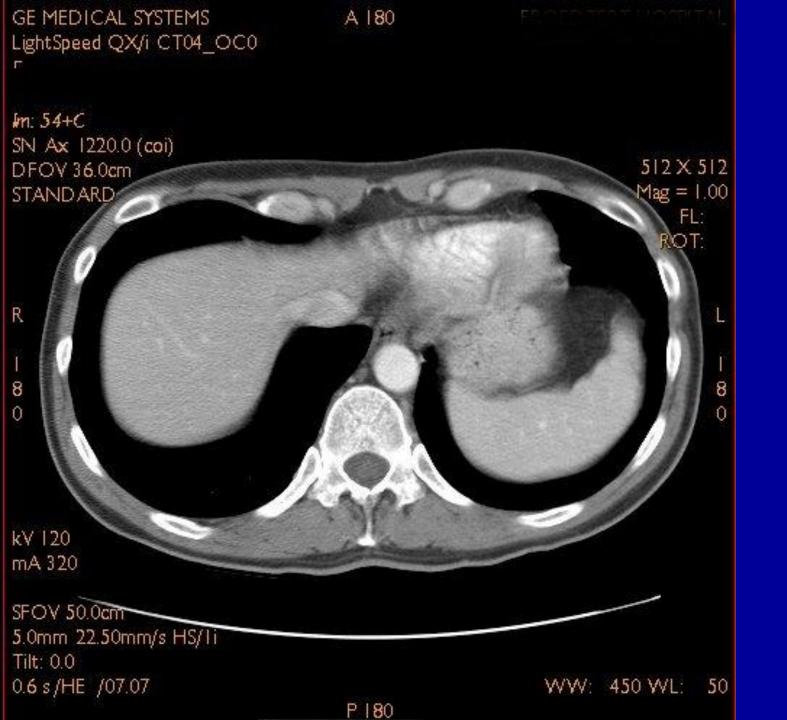


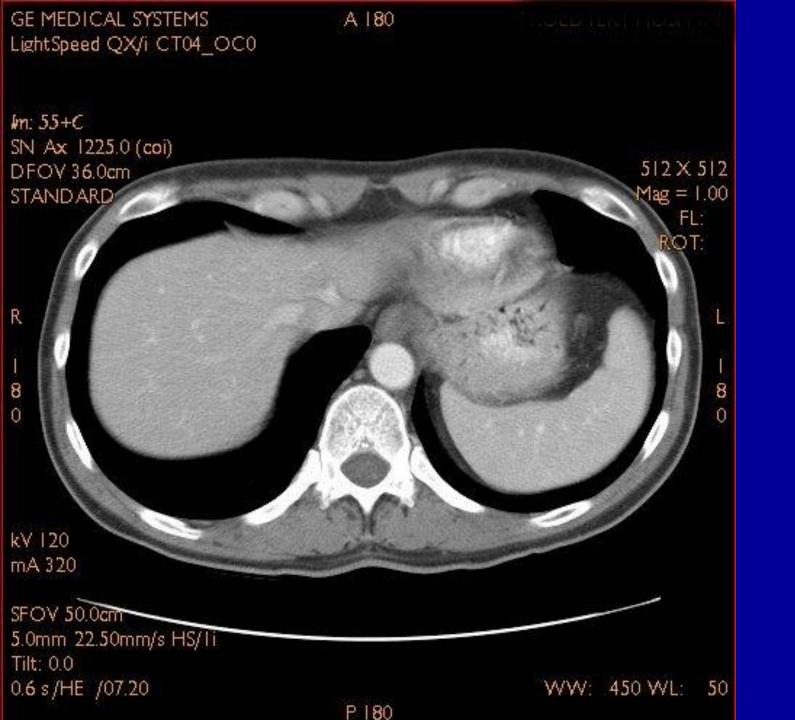


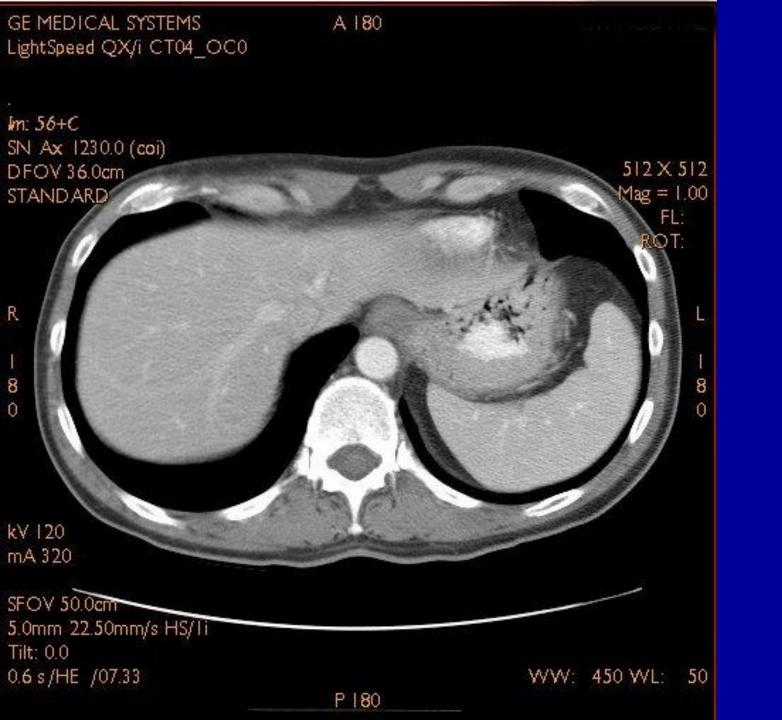


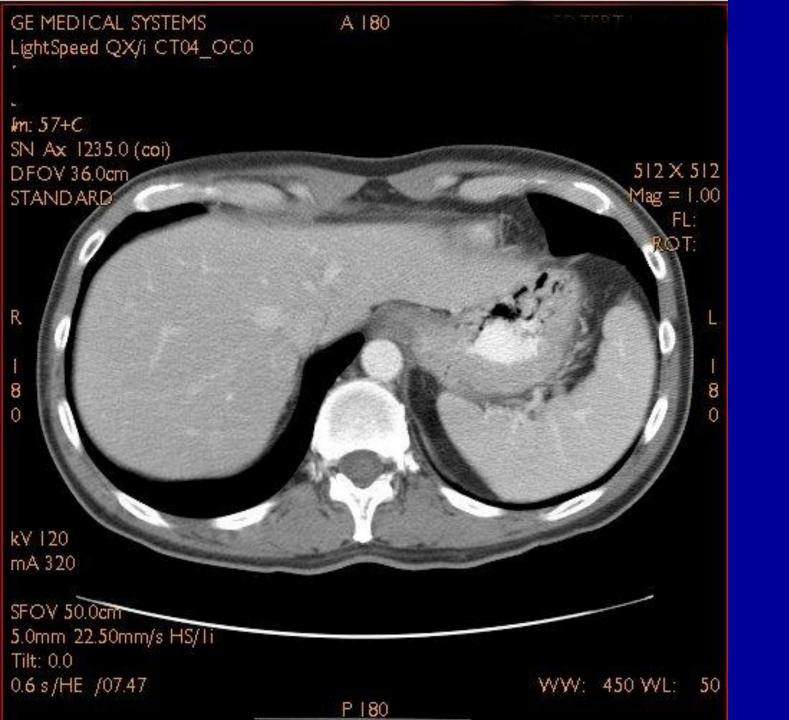
Normal Anatomy

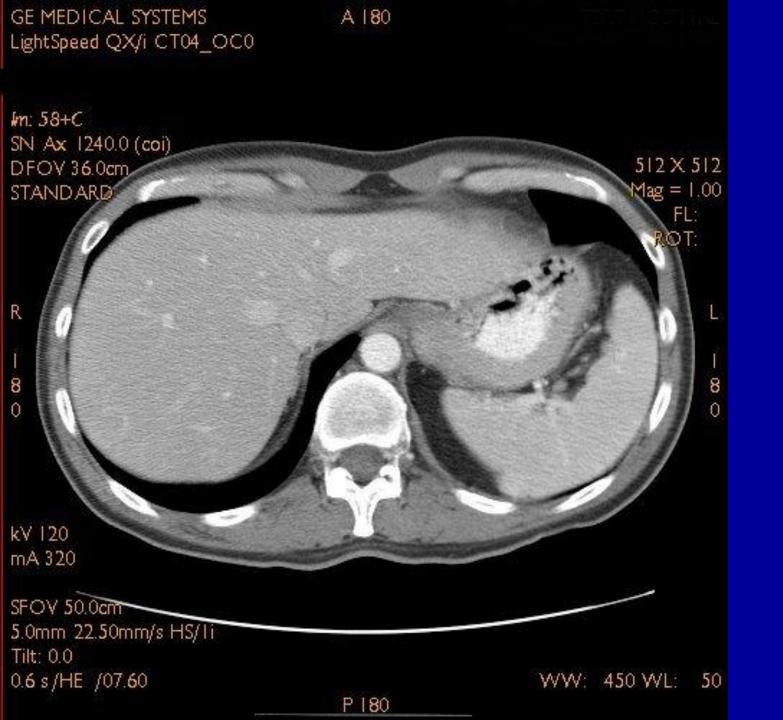


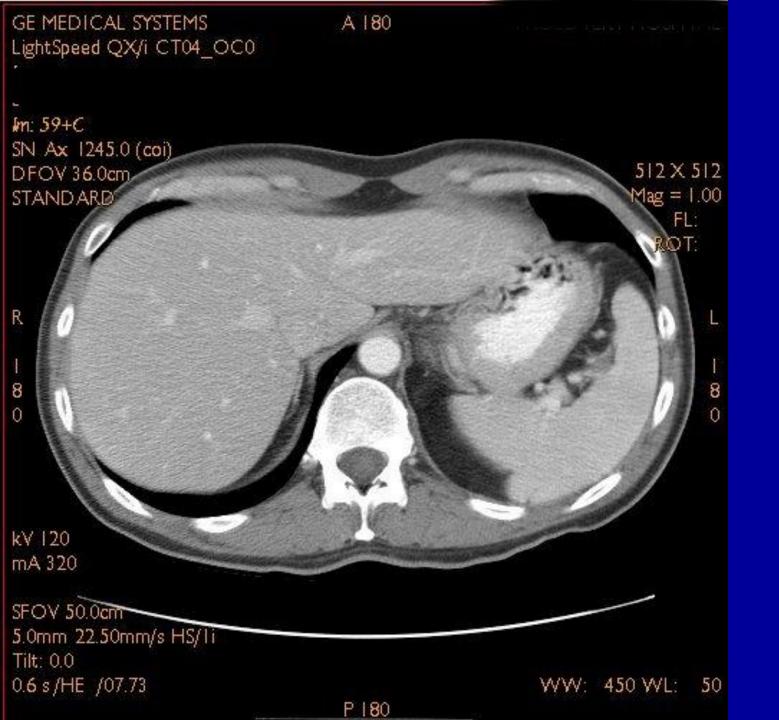


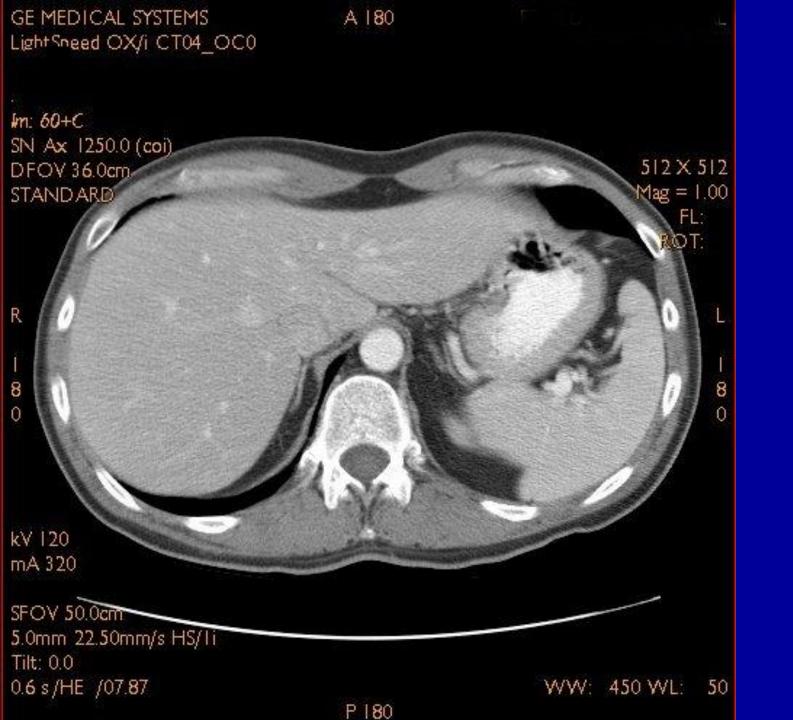


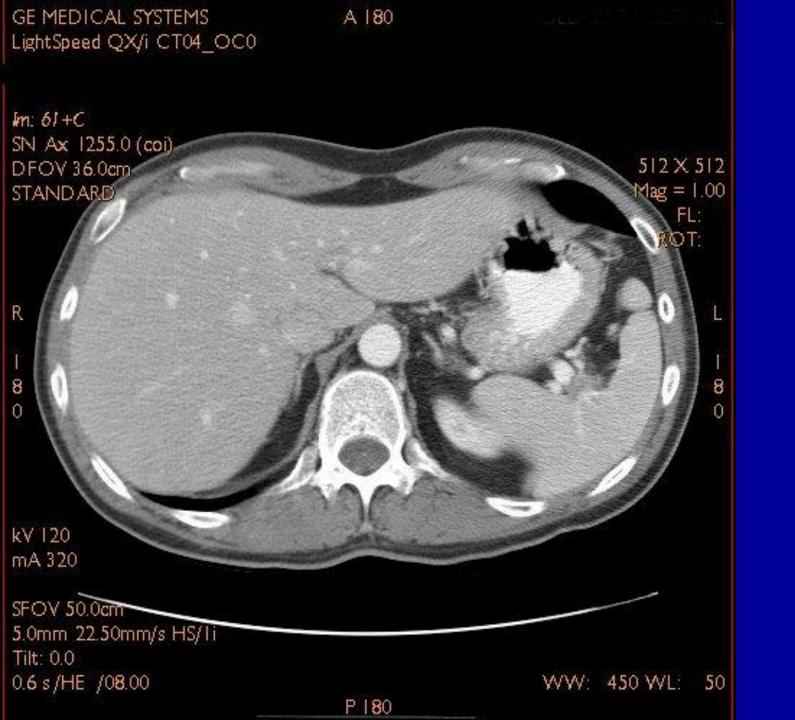


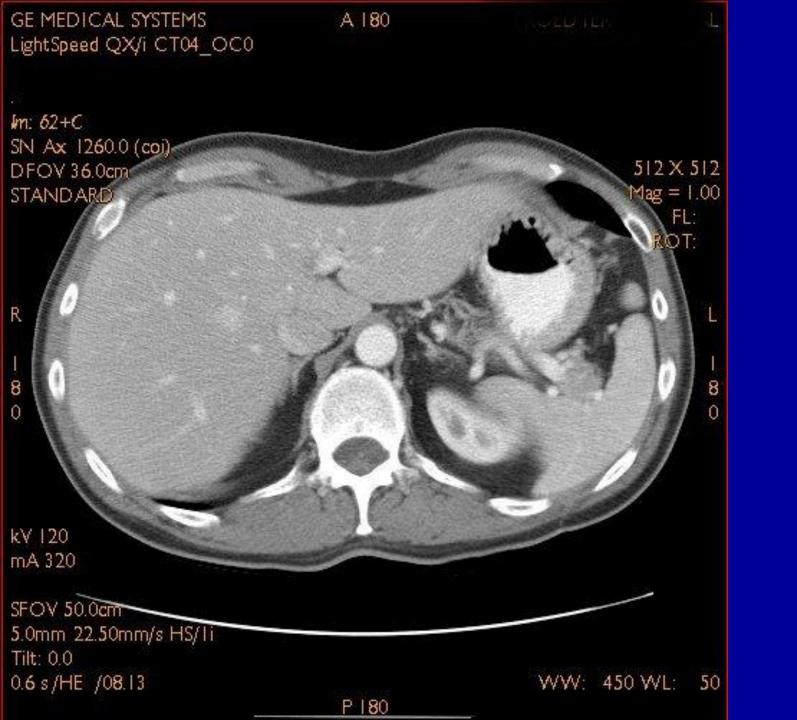


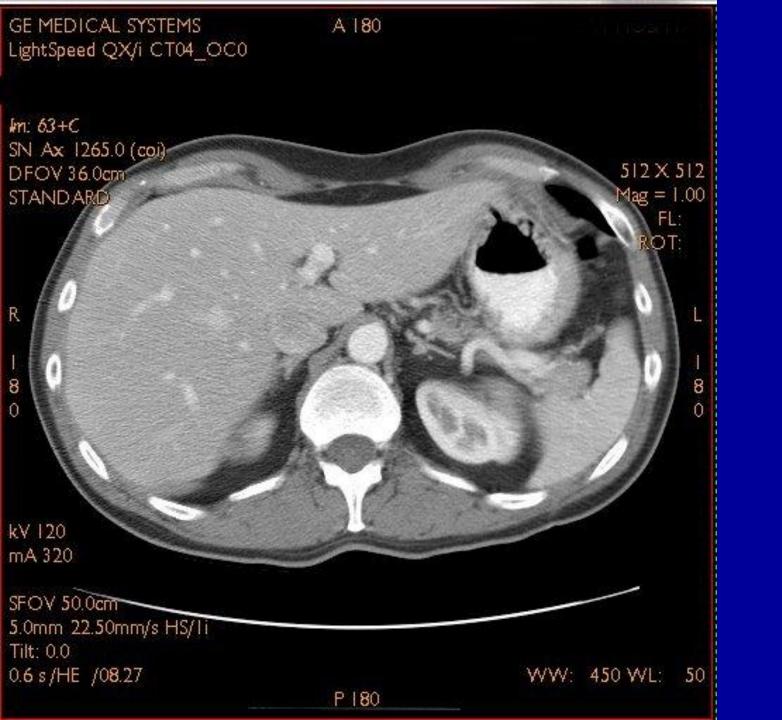


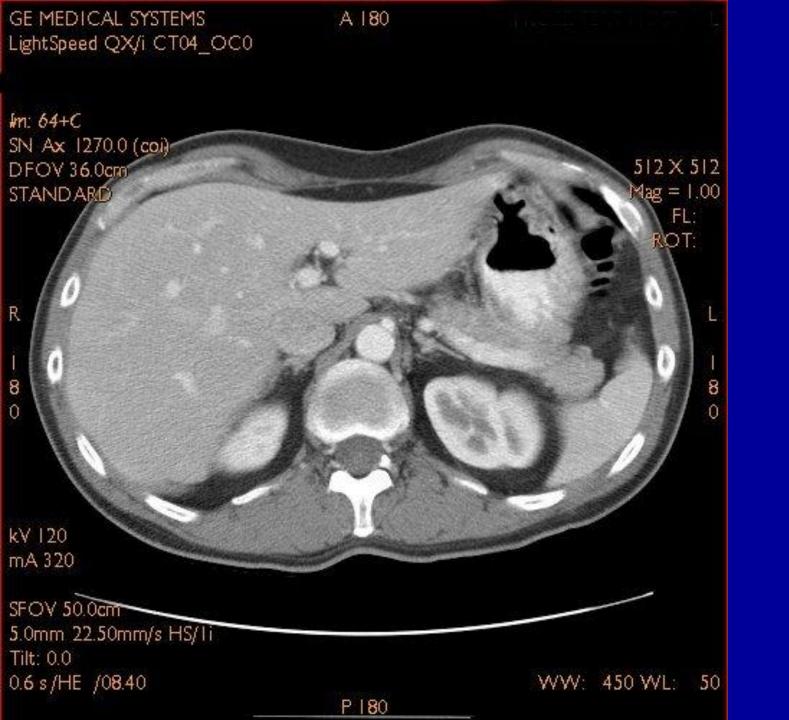


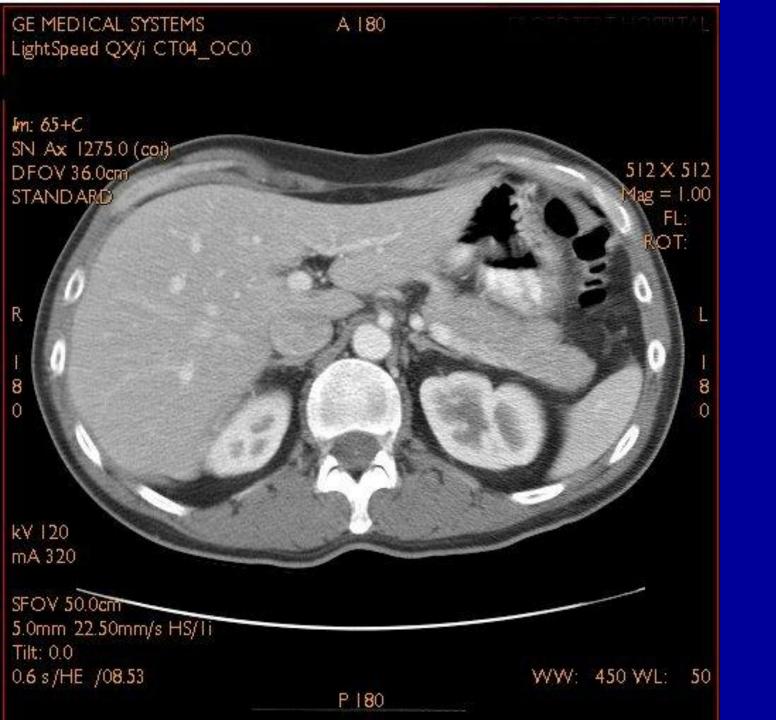


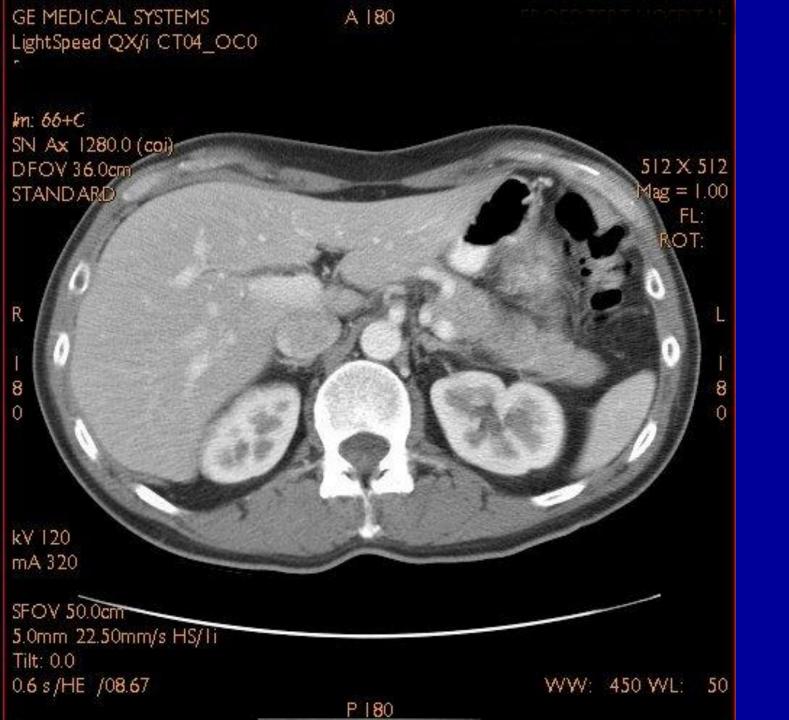


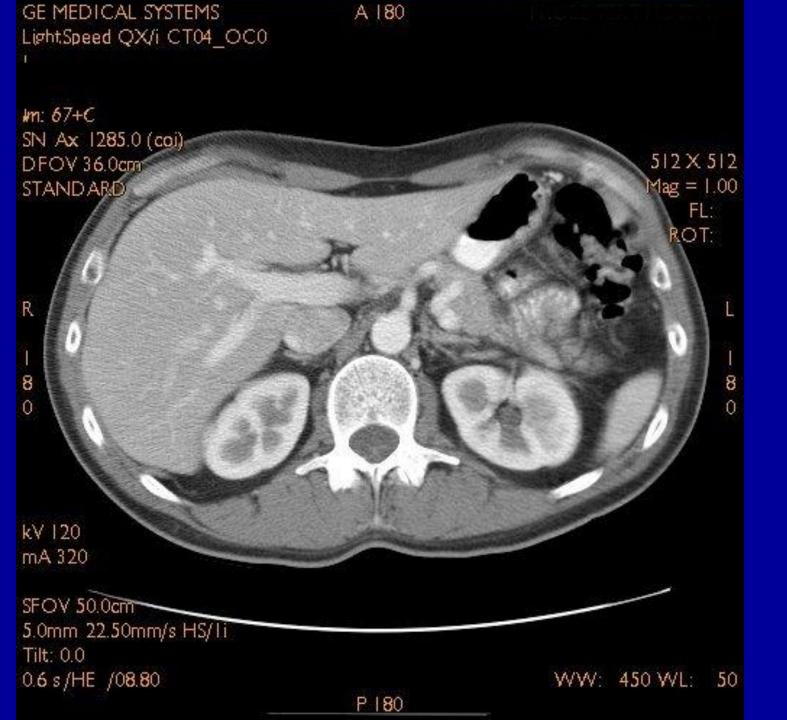


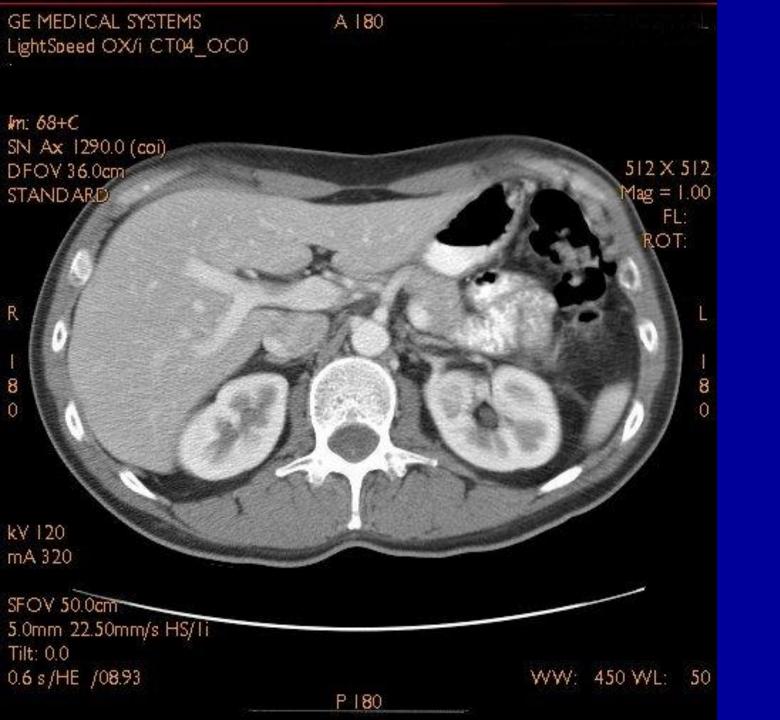


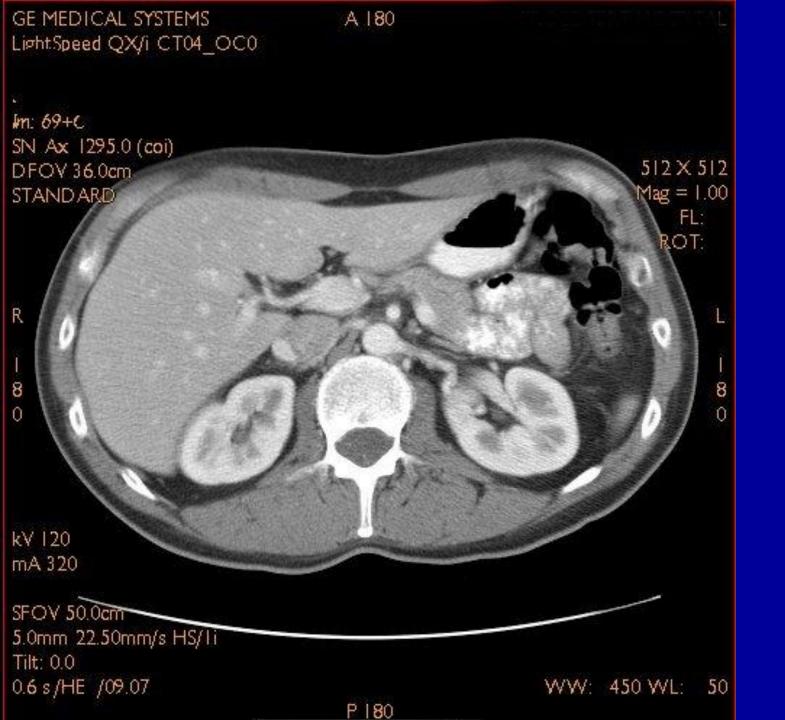


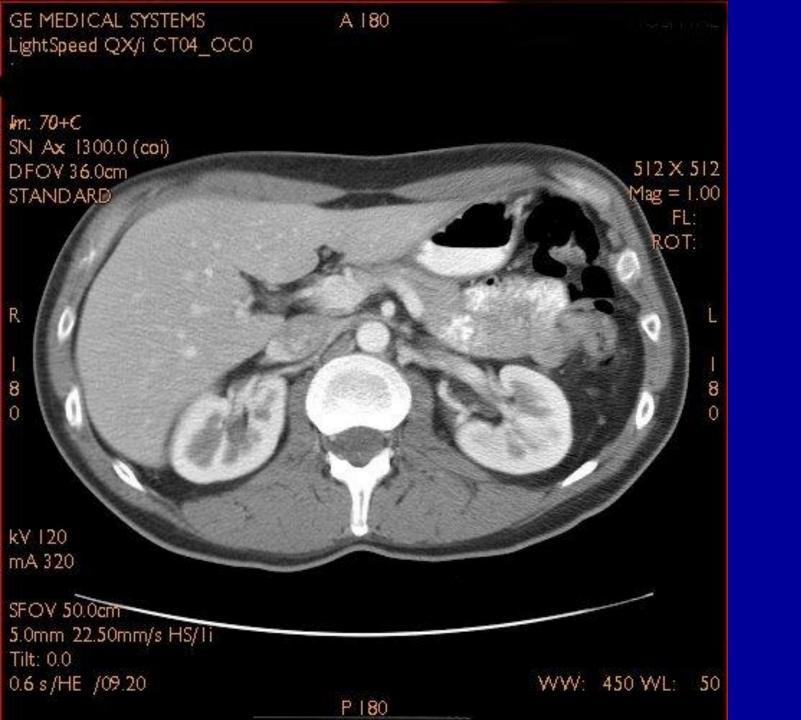


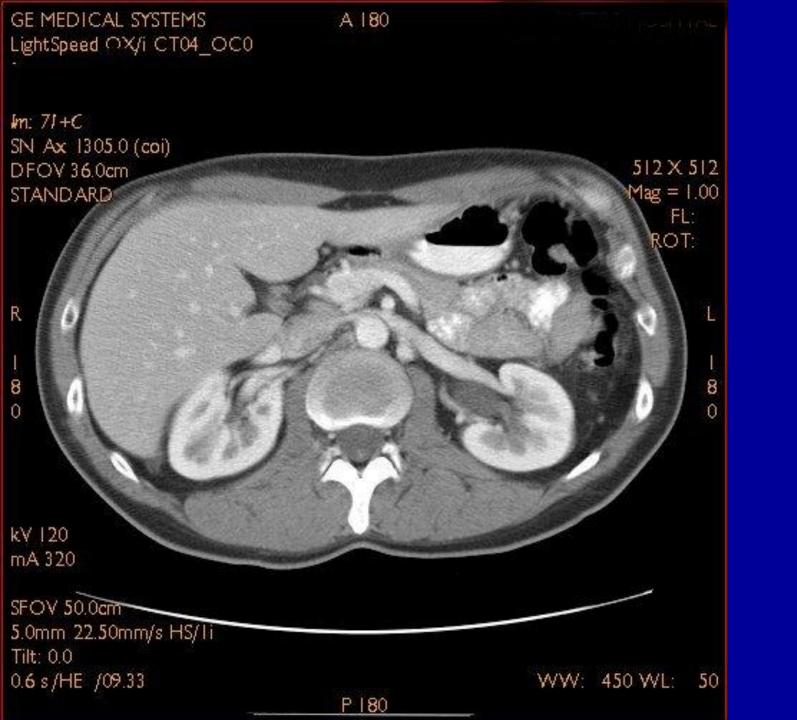


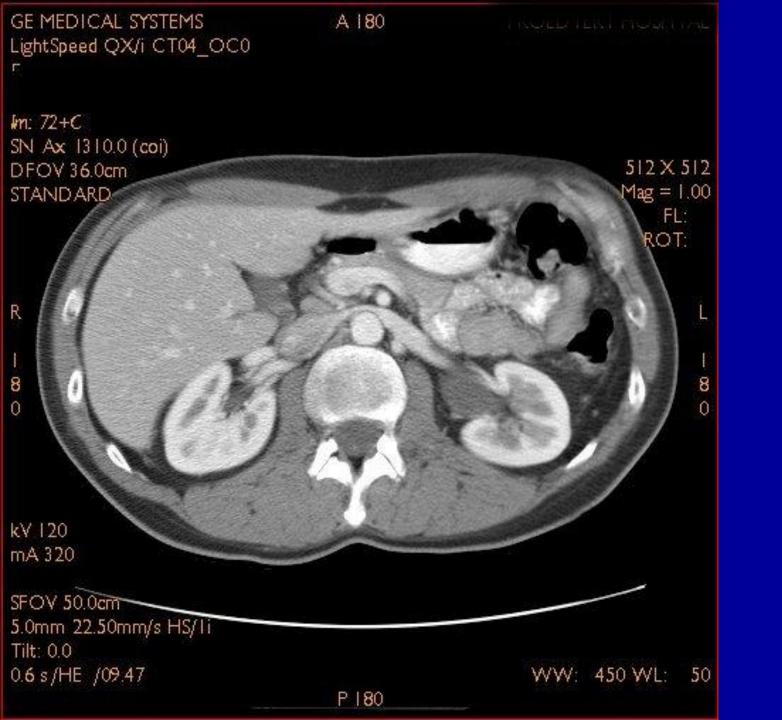


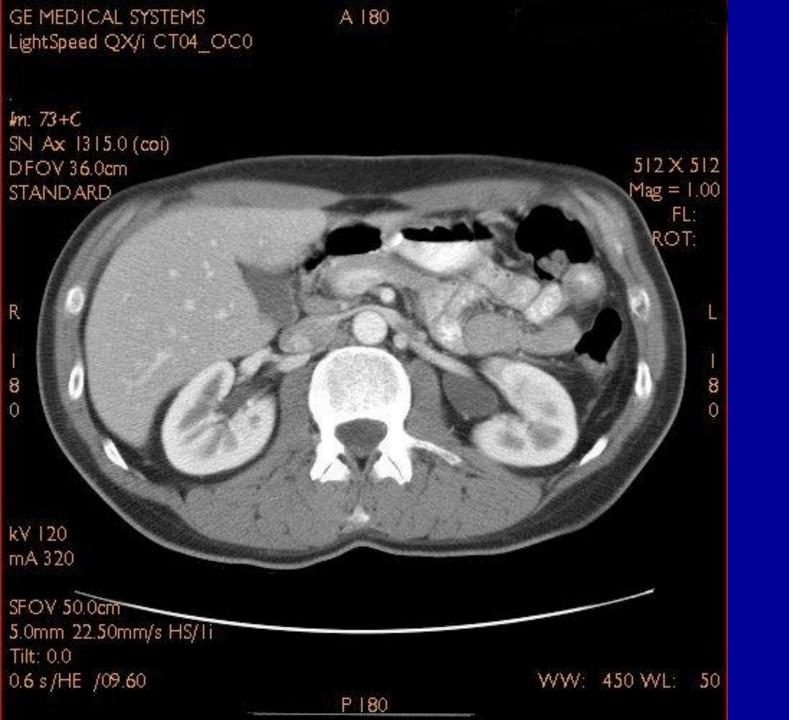


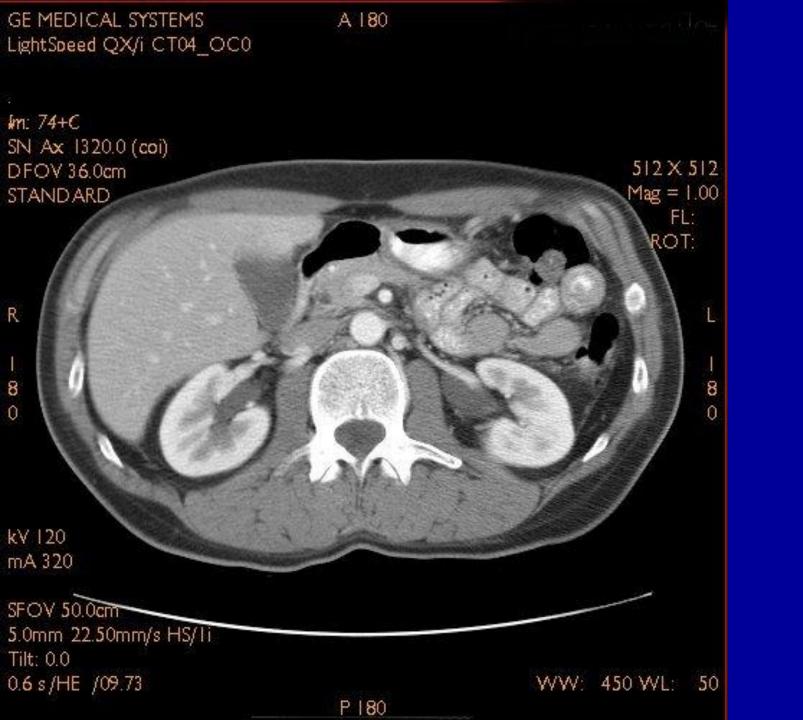


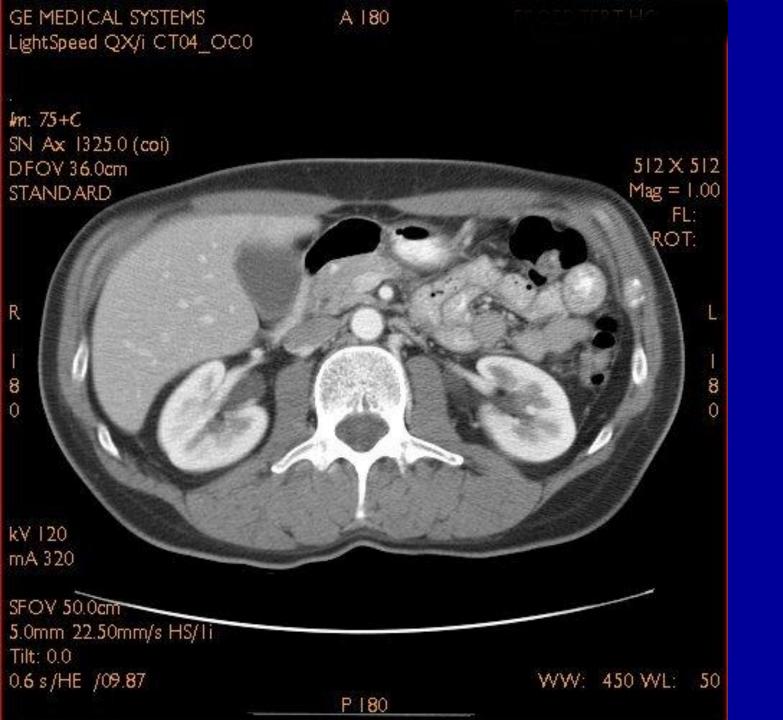


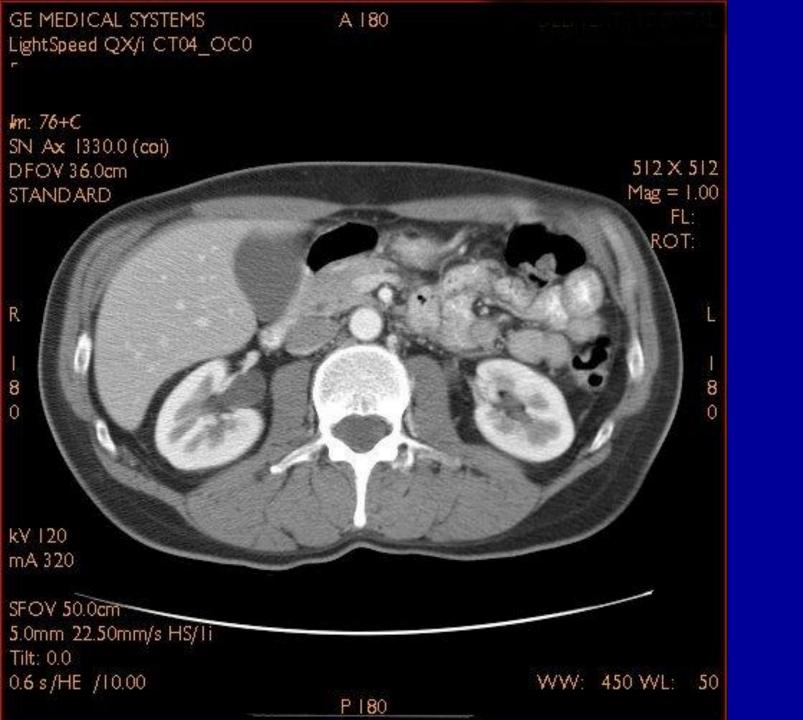


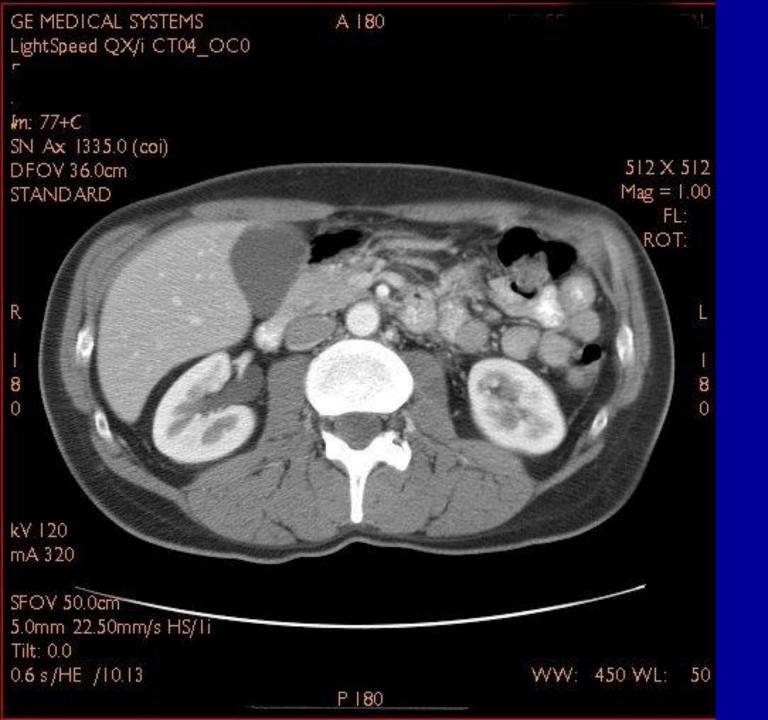


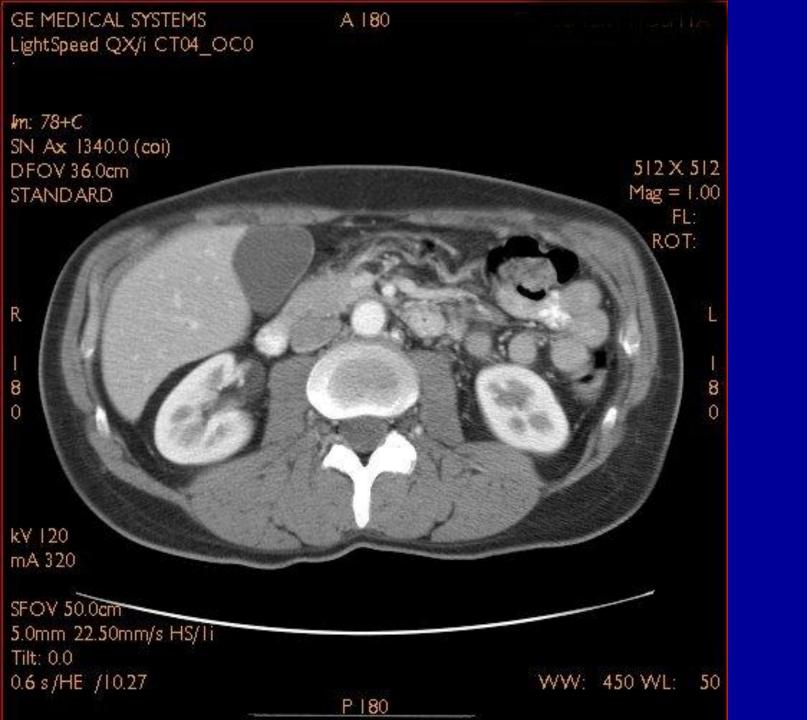


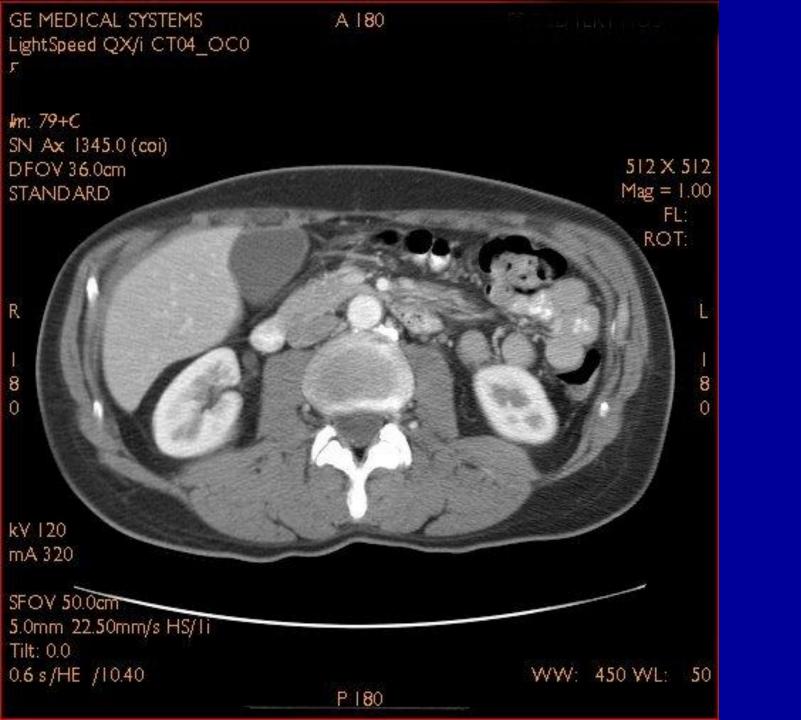


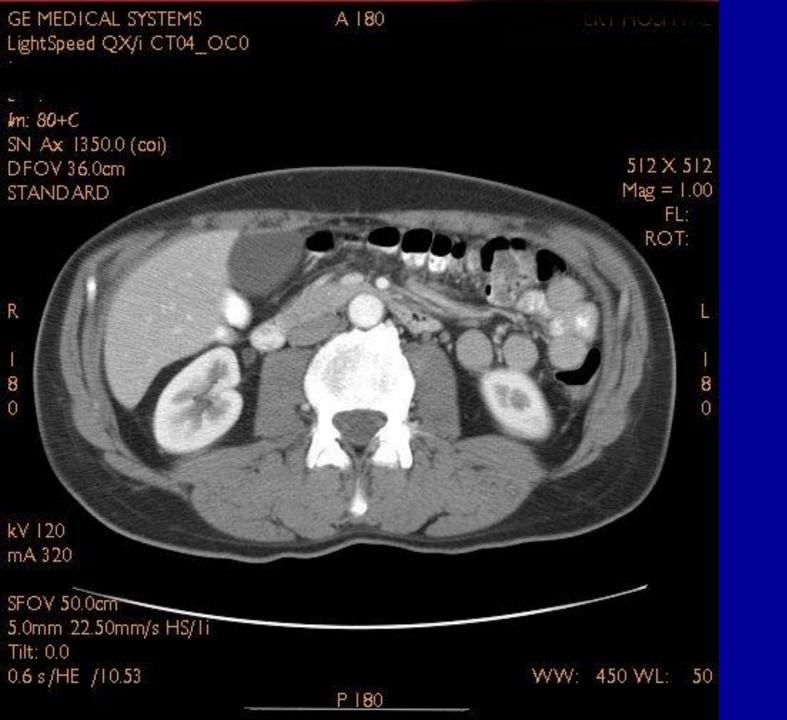


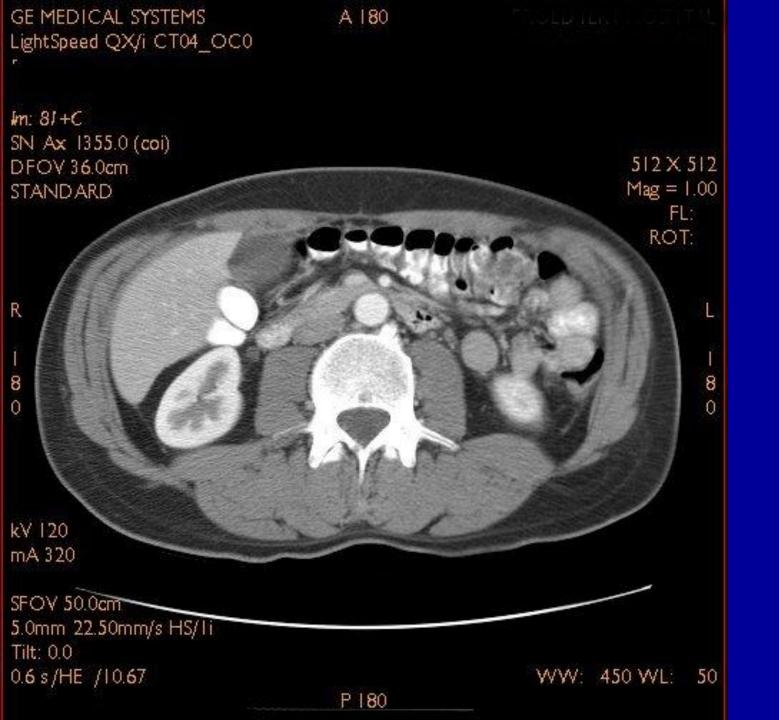


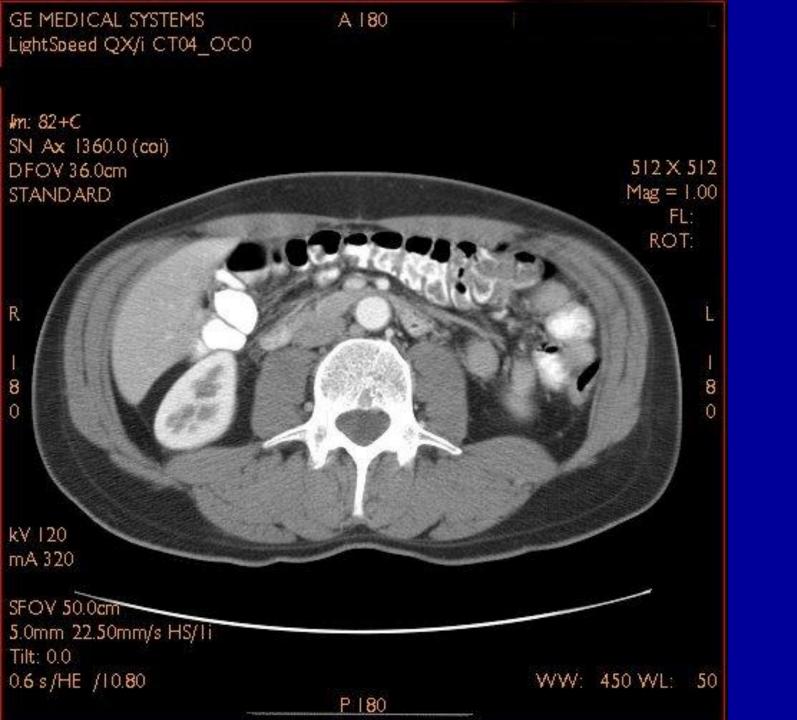


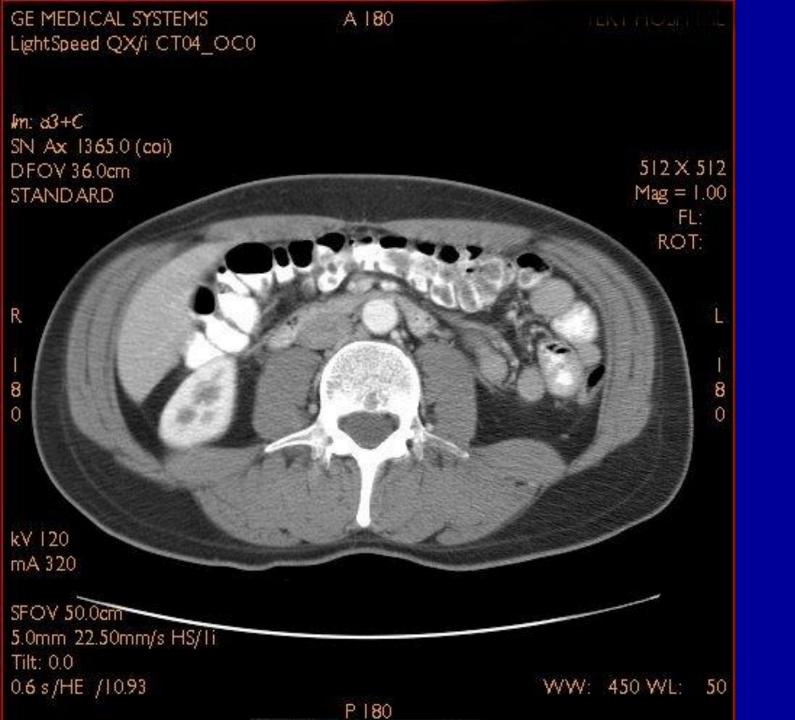






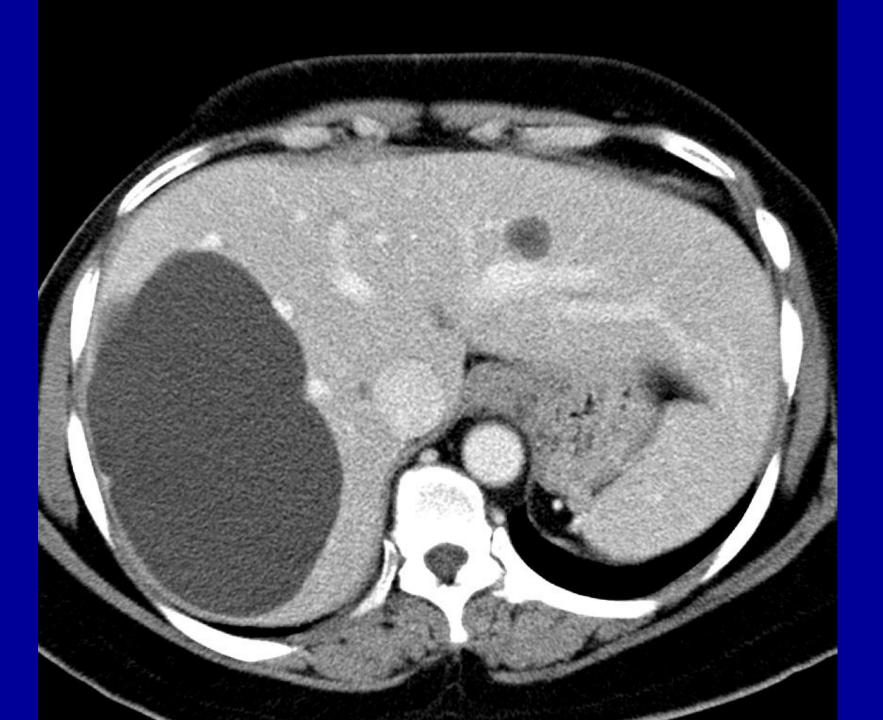


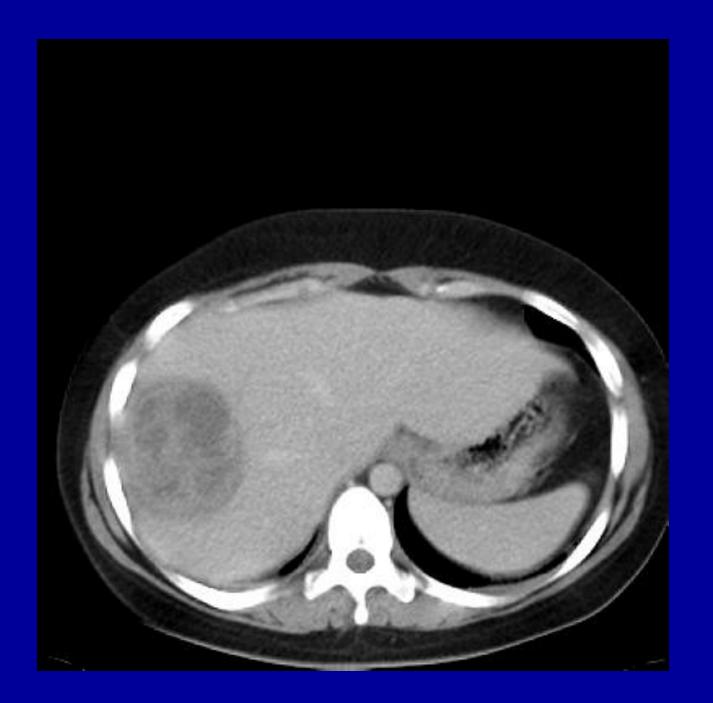






Liver Pathology





Liver Abscess

- 50% multiple
- Pyogenic 88% Amoebic 10% Fungal 2%
- Causes of Pyogenic abscesses:-
- Biliary obstruction (cholangitis),

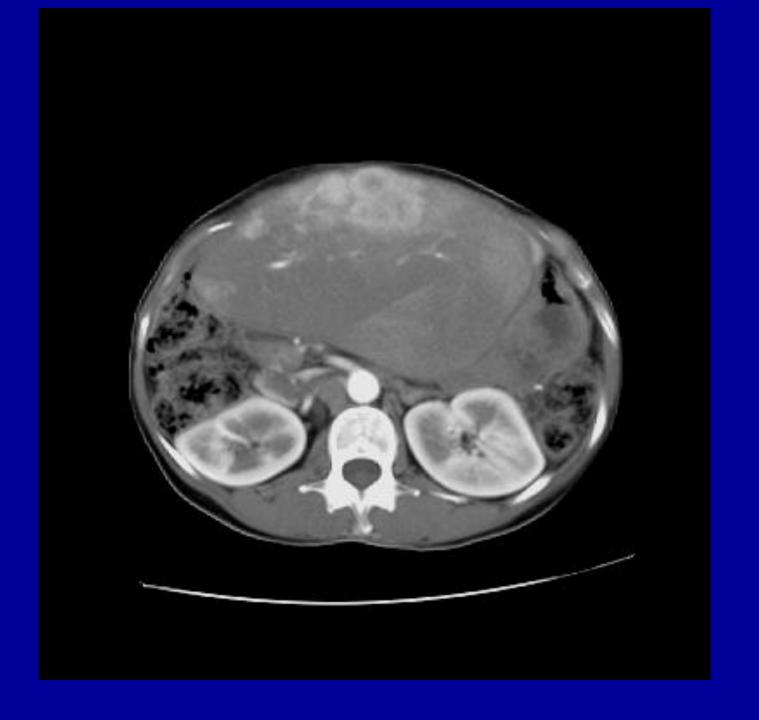
Portal vein-diverticulitis, appendicitis, IBD

Endocarditis

Direct spread-perf ulcer, pyelonephritis

Trauma-blunt/penetrating injury

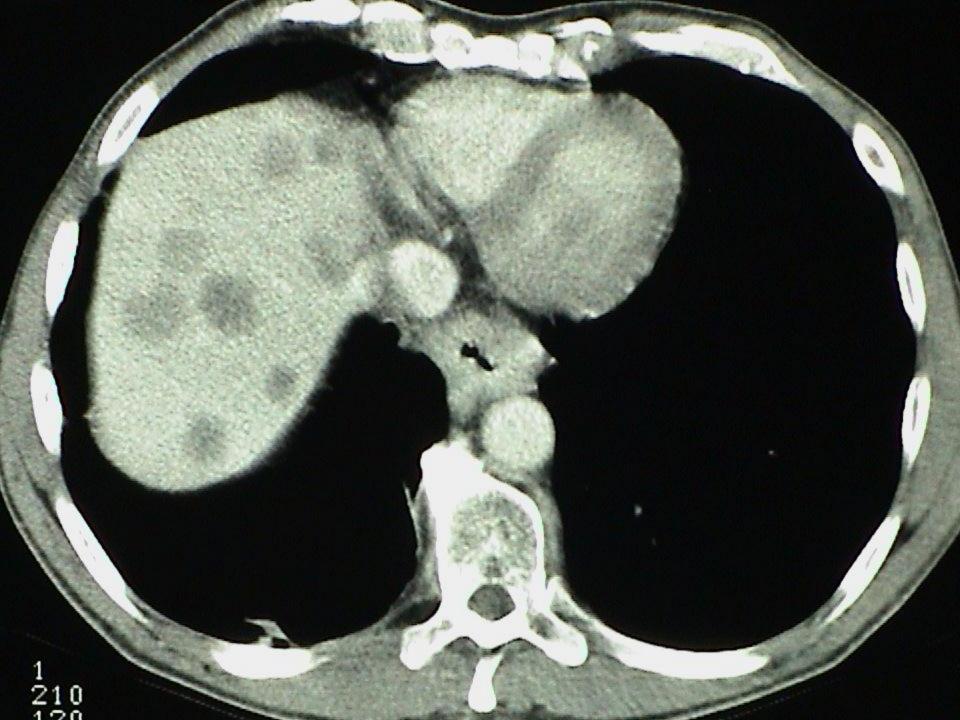






Hypervascular Metastases

- Renal cell carcinoma
- Melanoma
- Thyroid
- Neuroendocrine (carcinoid, gastrinoma, islet cell, glucagonoma)
- Choriocarcinoma



Hypovascular Metastases

- Gut:- colon, stomach, pancreas
- Bronchus
- Breast

Liver Metastases

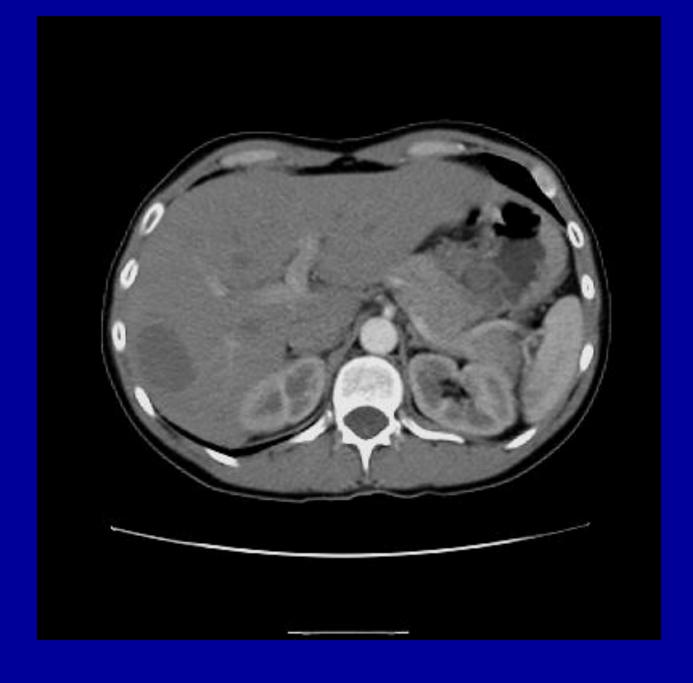
- Liver-one of commonest site for metastases
- Common primary sites-colon, gastric, pancreas, breast, lung
- In a known carcinoma 25-50% have liver 2s at autopsy
- Often multifocal
- CT enhancement pattern depends on primary but can be variable





HCC

- One of commonest primary tumours worldwide
- Increasing in Asia and Africa
- † in cirrhosis (80%), hep B, C, alcohol
- Three forms:- solitary, multifocal and diffuse infiltrative
- CT-Hypervascular lesion with chaotic vessels. Variable washout in portal phase
- Invades portal vein, Hep Vs and IVC







Haemangioma

- Commonest solid benign liver tumour (7-20% of adults)
- F>M 2-5:1 up to 50% multiple
- Composed of dilated vascular spaces separated by fibrous septa
- Rarely bleed
- Characteristic enhancement with peripheral globular pattern with fill in over minutes

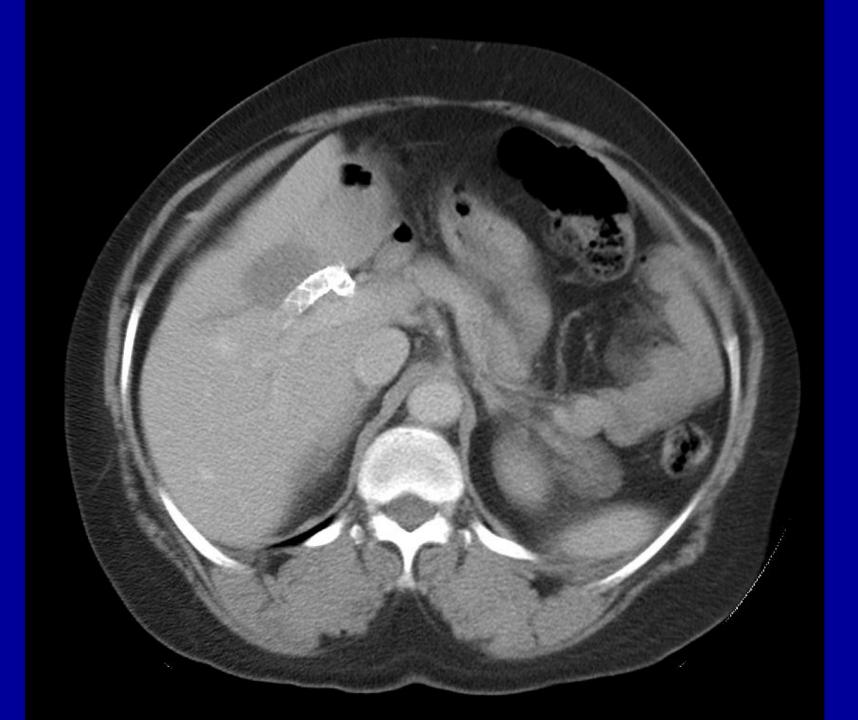


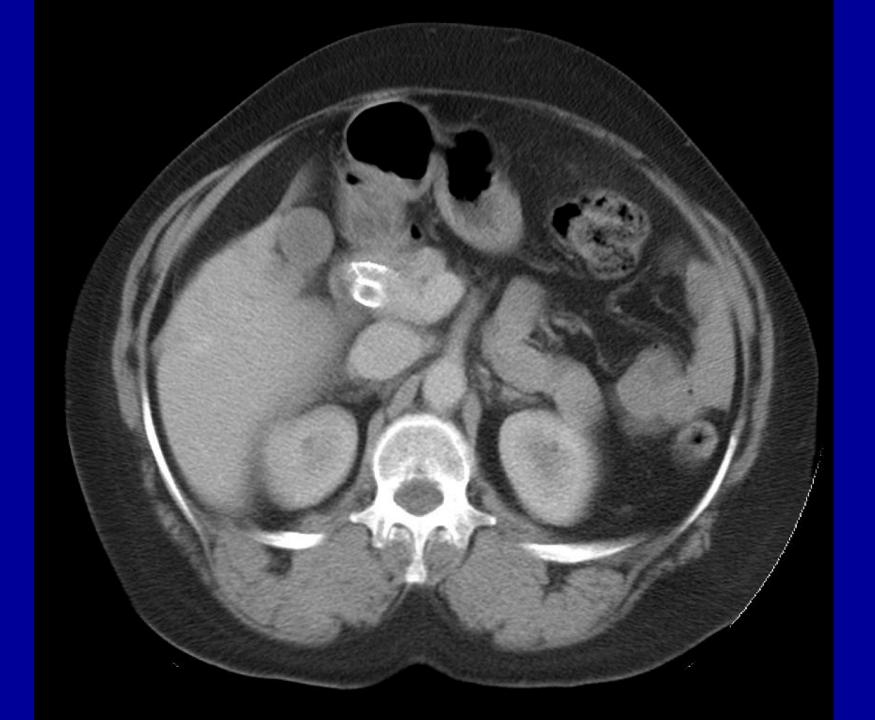


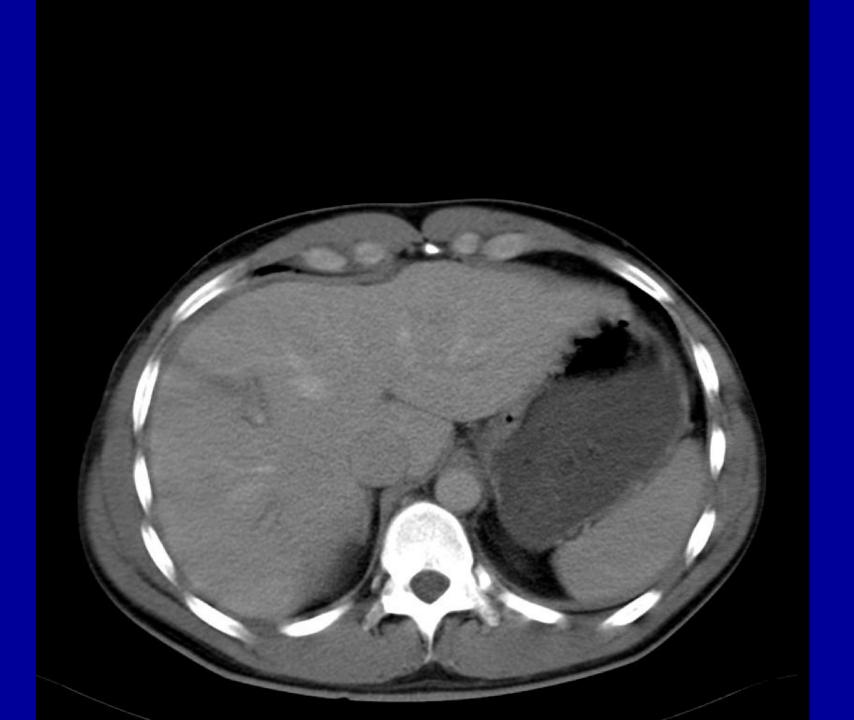


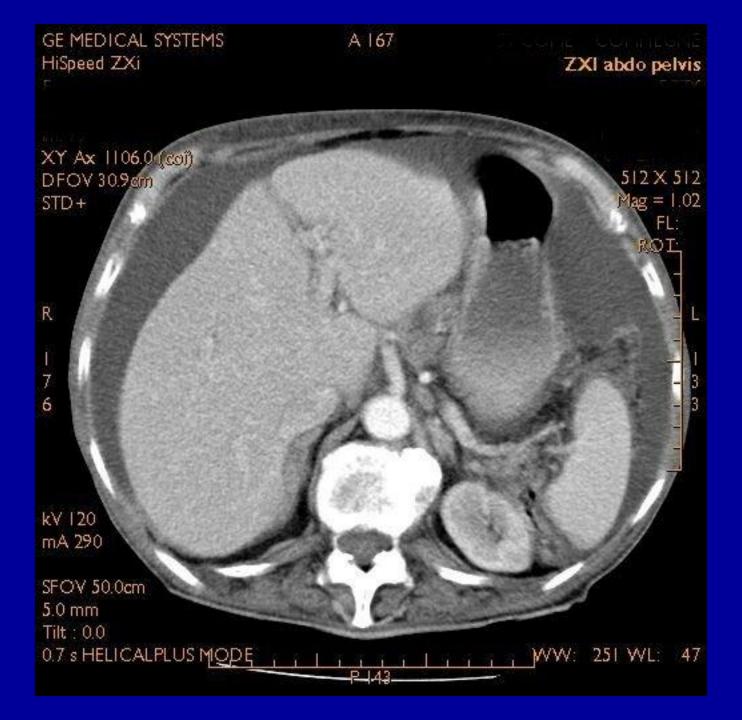
Focal Nodular Hyperplasia

- 8% of primary liver lesions (2nd commonest benign lesion).
- Hamartoma (normal constituents in abnormal arrangement)
- F>M 8:1
- 3rd-5th decade 10-20% multiple
- CT: Avid arterial enhancement from a central feeding vessel. Remains hyperdense in portal phase
- Central stellate scar in 20%



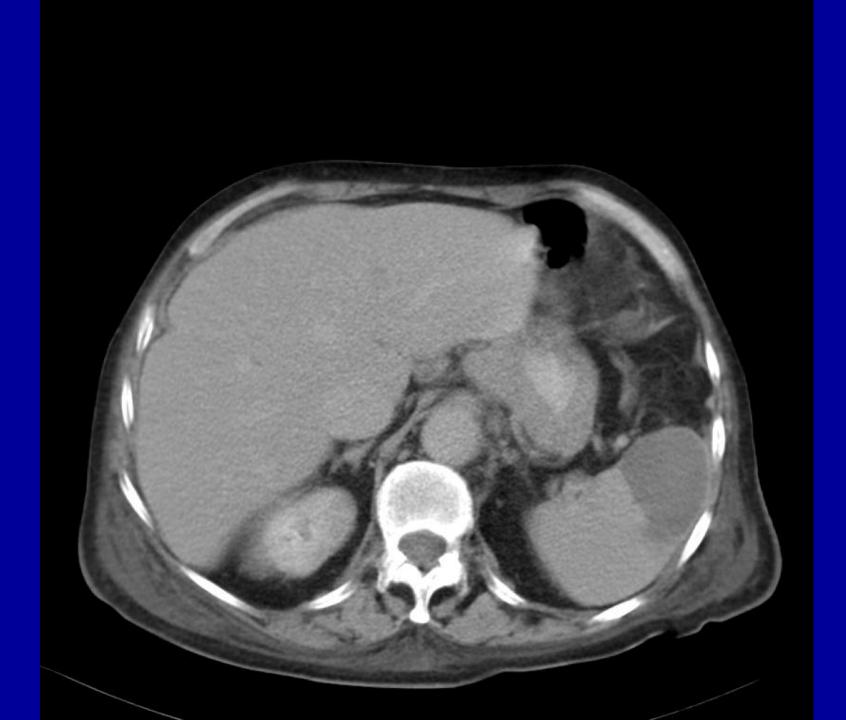




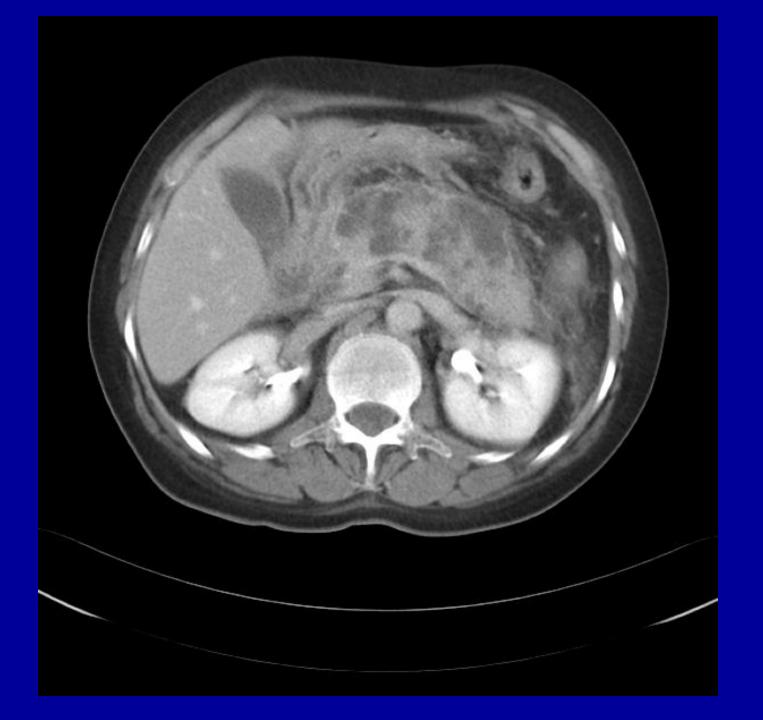




Spleen



Pancreas

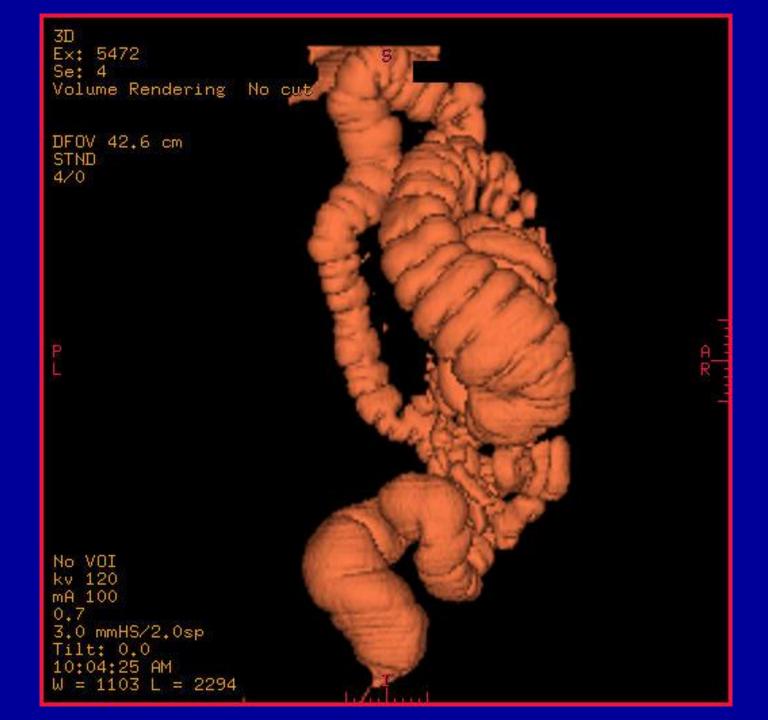








Bowel



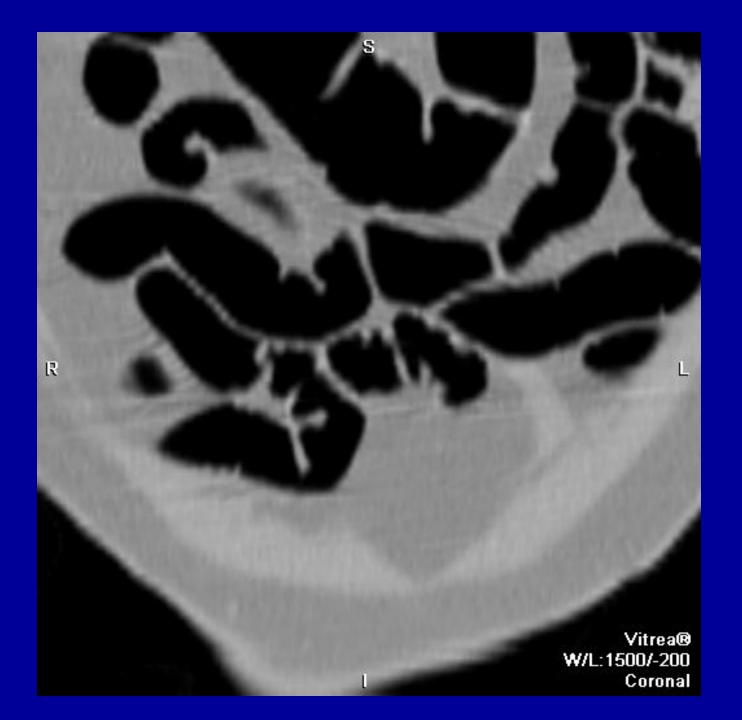
CT Colonography

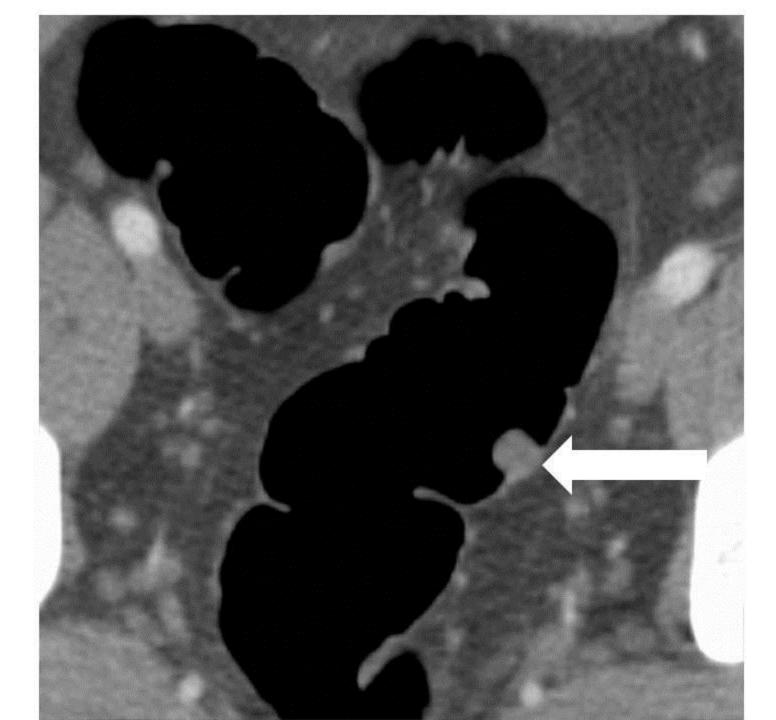
Technique

- Bowel preparation (picolax)
- Bowel relaxant (Buscopan IV)
- Rectal gas insufflation (CO2 or air)
- Scan supine and prone
- IV contrast
- Available in 1/3 NHS centres



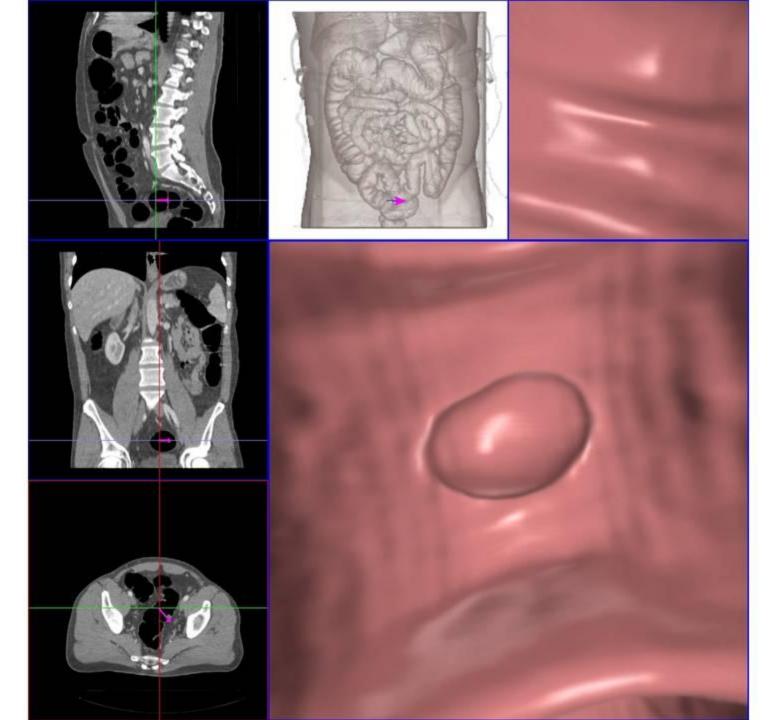


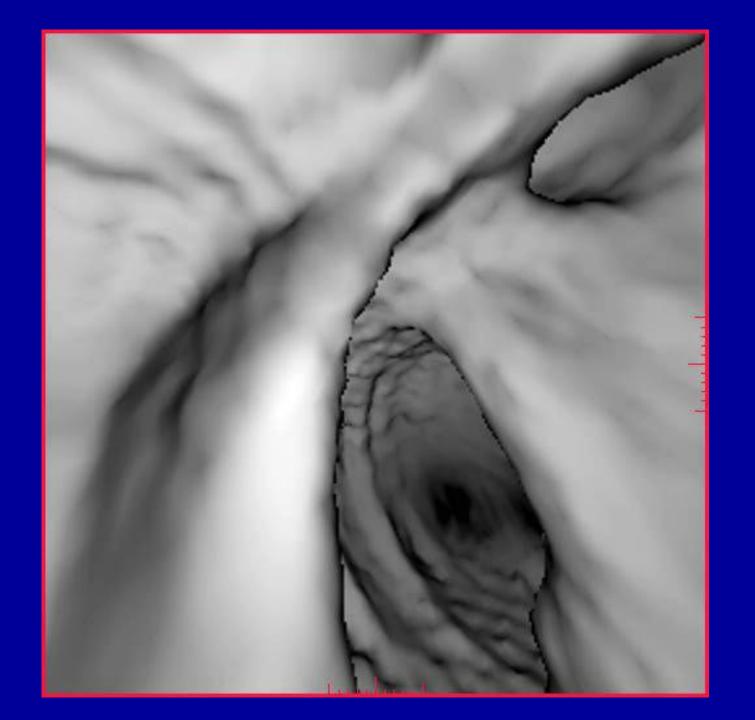


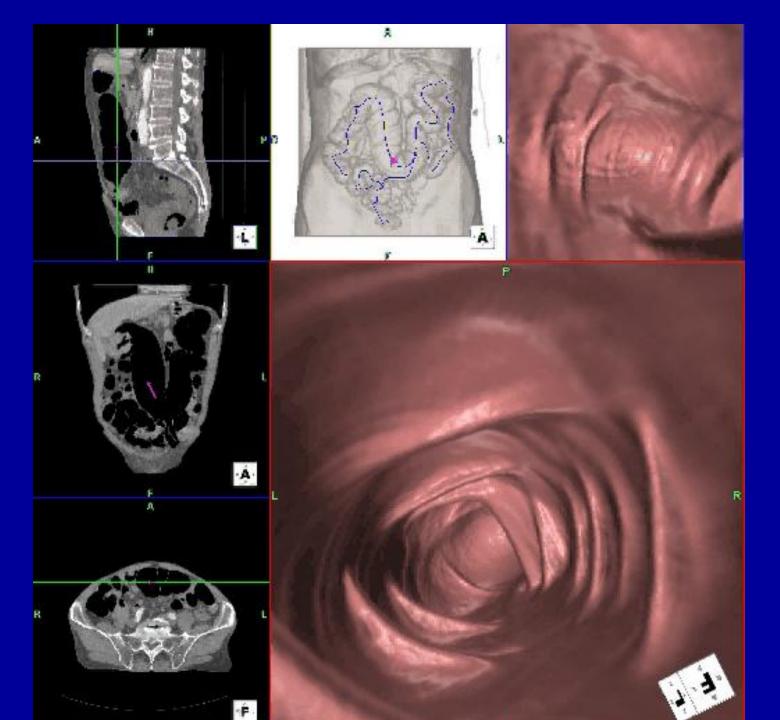


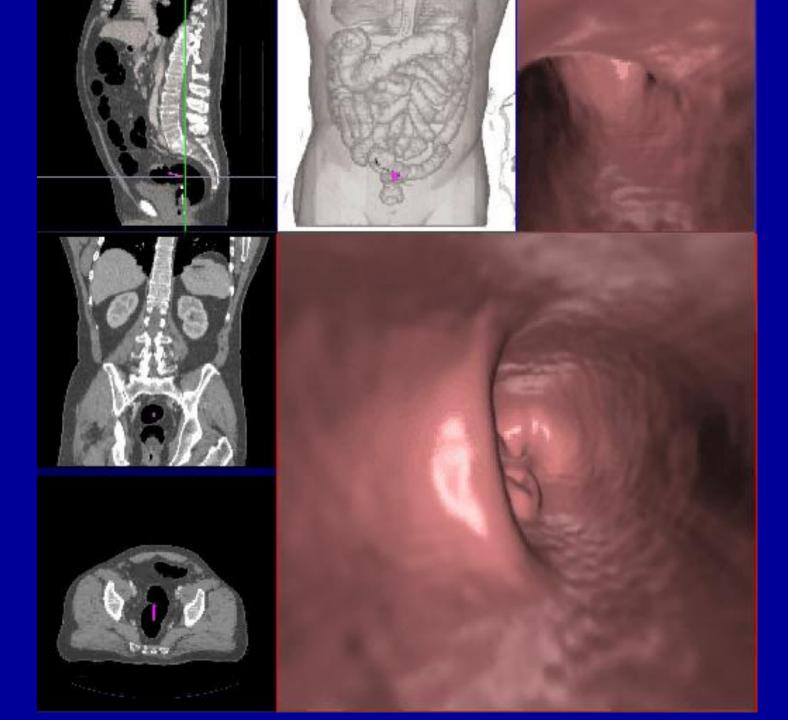


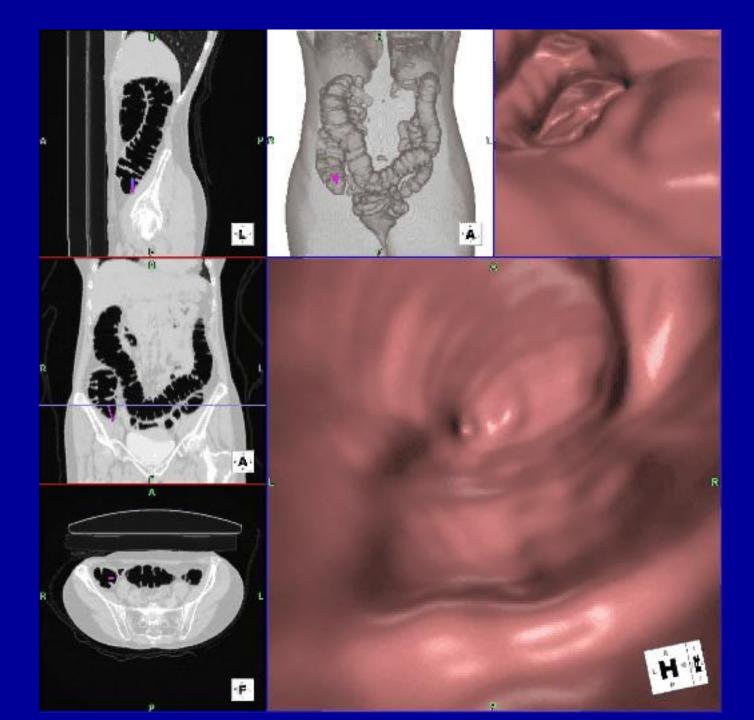


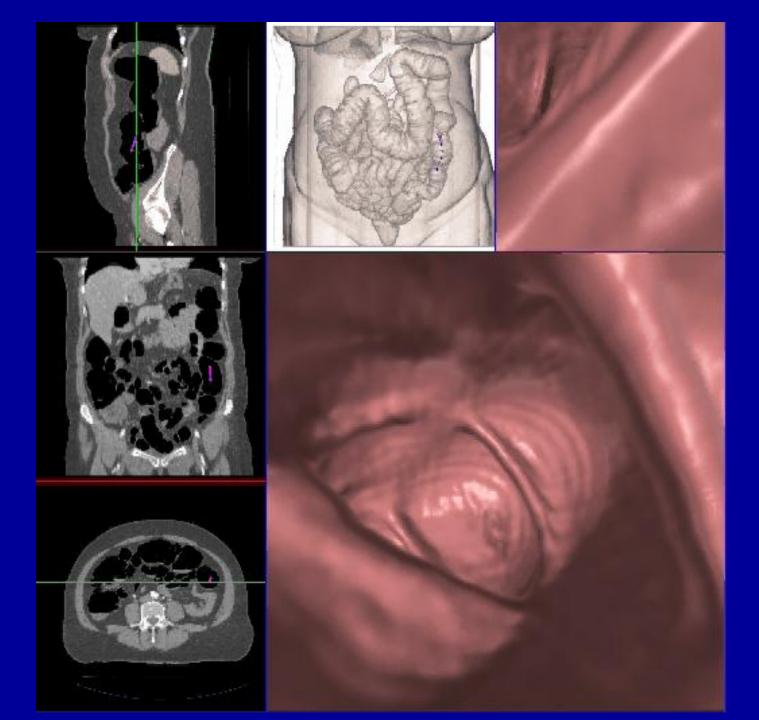






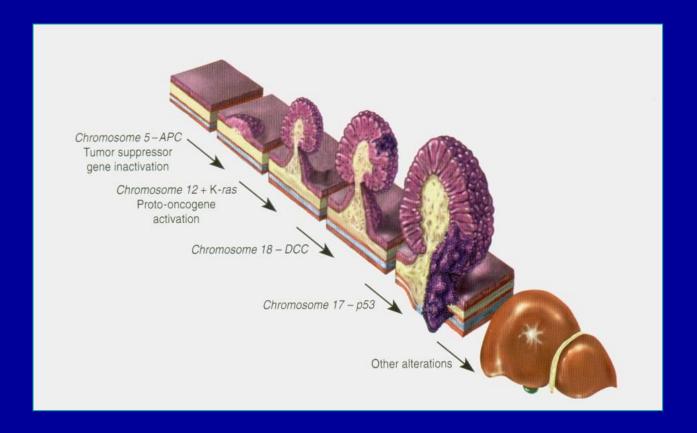




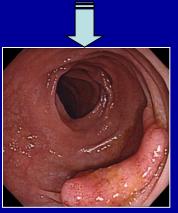


Pathogenesis -Adenoma Carcinoma Sequence

- ❖ Most colorectal cancers arise from adenomatous polyps
- This progression may take up to 10 years in some people









Virtual Colonoscopy

- Polyp detection
 - > 1 cm sensitivity/specificity> 95%
 - 5-9 mm sens 70-80 % spec 85%
- Safer, quicker, cheaper than conventional colonoscopy
- Useful in frail and failed colonoscopy
- Research- screening tool, cost benefit

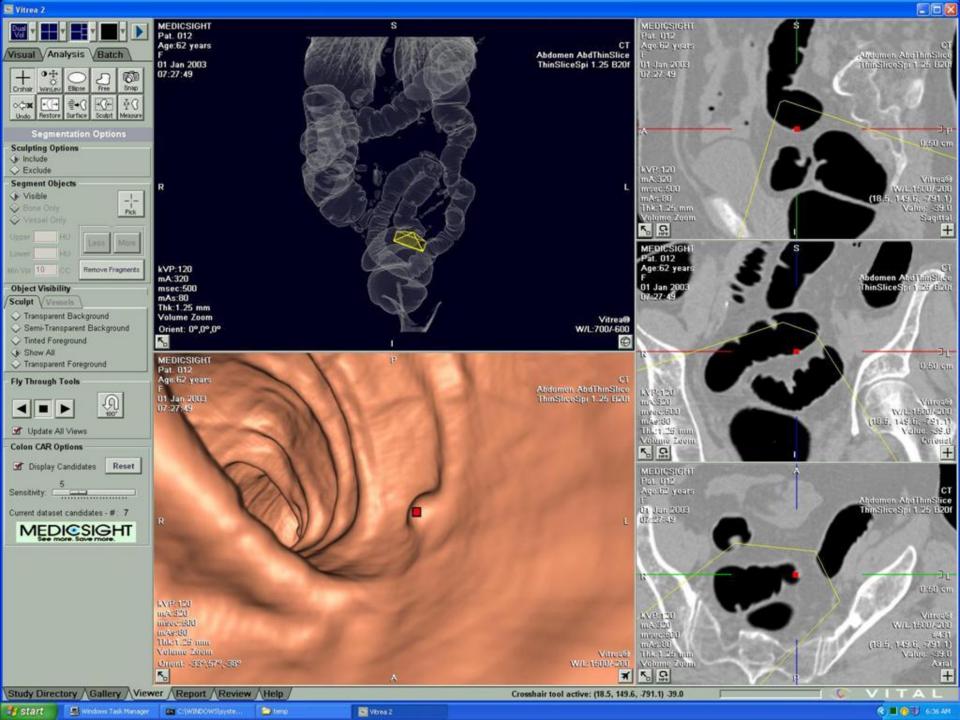
Benefits over existing techniques

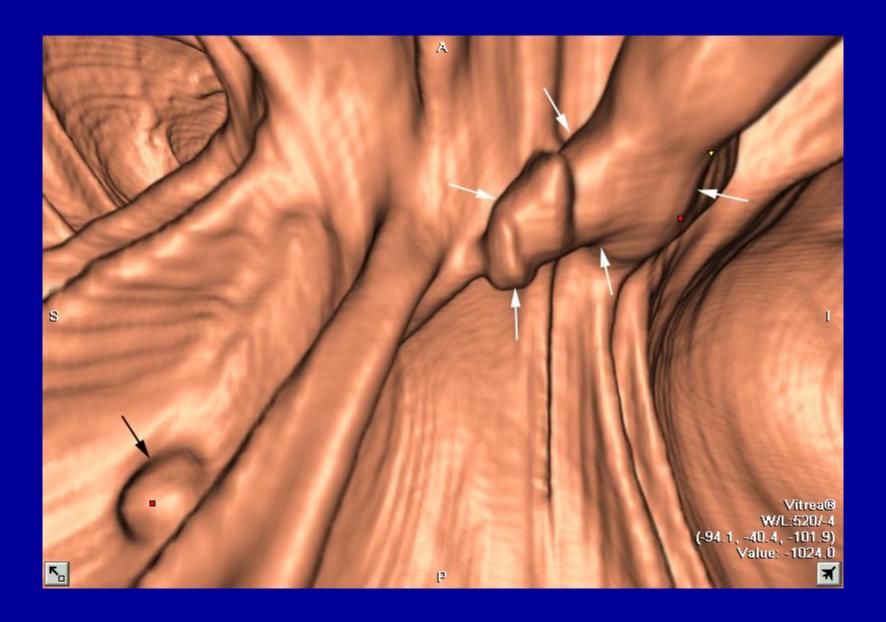
- Quick (10-15mins)
- Safe —no sedation, non-invasive
- Perforation rate (CTC 0.03%, Csy 0.13%)
- Mortality rate (CTC 0, Csy 0.02%)
- Higher success rate >90%
- Can image colon prox to stricture
- Stage colorectal cancer
- Detection of important extracolonic findings (5-10%)
- Potential reduced bowel prep

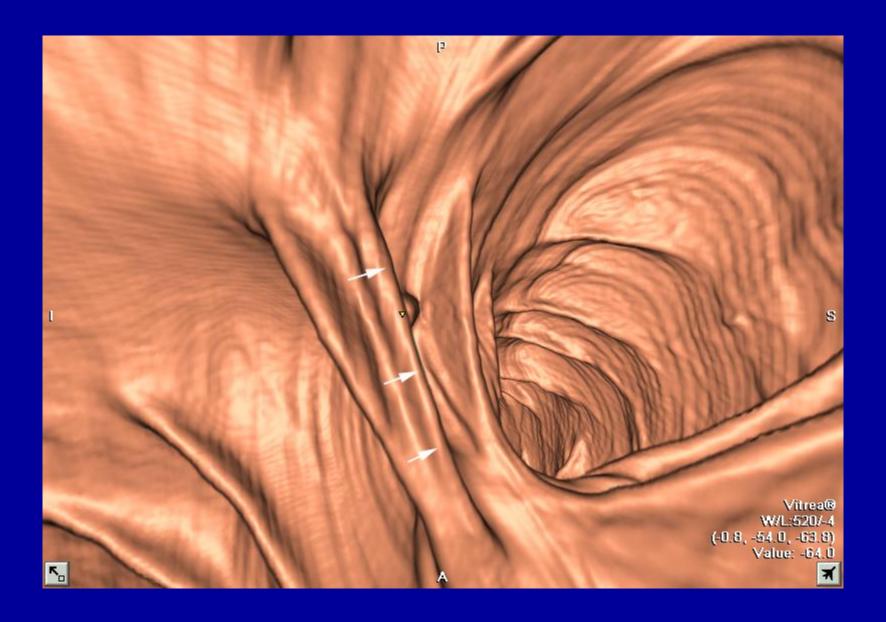
New Developments

Computer assisted detection

- Computer extracts the gas filled colon from the CT dataset
- Looks for filling defects in the colon which could be polyps or cancers
- Highlights these to the reporting radiologist
- Improves sensitivity



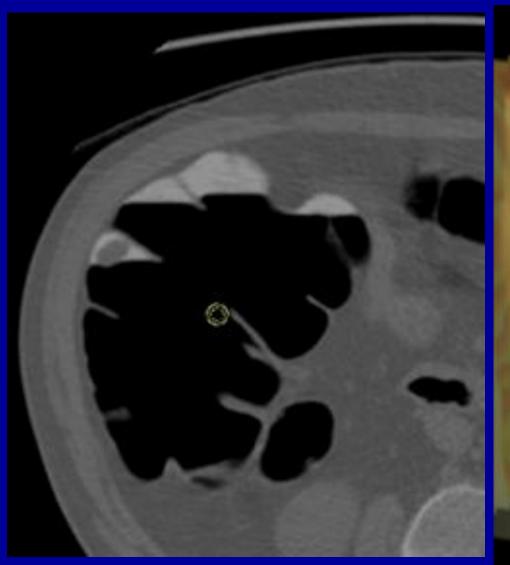


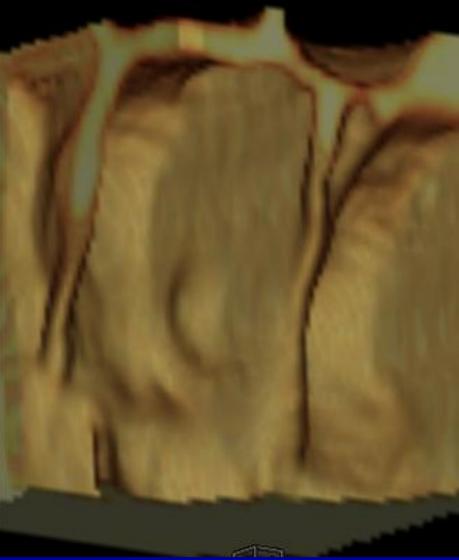


Faecal Tagging

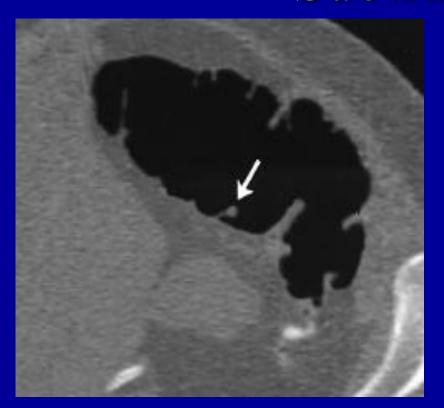
- Patients hate full bowel preparation
- Use tagging regimens to reduce the need for bowel preparation
- No preparation

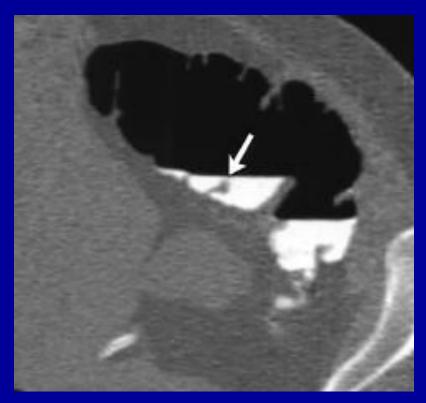






Subtraction





Pickhardt PJ et al. AJR 2003;181;799-805

Limitations of CTC

• supine



prone



Limitations of CTC

Radiation Dose

- MDCT 6-10 mSv but can be reduced to 0.7-1.7 mSv and still retain polyp sensitivity
- Barium enema 7mSv
- Annual UK background radiation 2-3 mSv

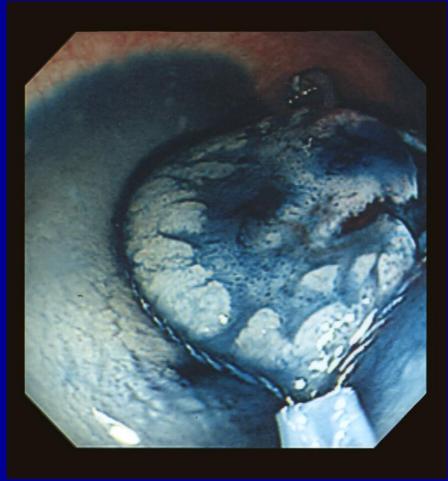
Limitations of CTC

Small polyps

- <6mm sens 48% spec 92%
- 6-9mm sens 70% spec 93% Flat polyps
- poor

Flat polyps: 12mm sigmoid polyp





Where might CT fit in?

- Symptomatic patients
- Those most at risk from endoscopy-related adverse events elderly/frail screenees
- Screenees who refuse endoscopy or would prefer CT
- Moderate risk of CRC with ? same day OC

Conclusions

- Screening for colorectal cancer is worthwhile
- Colonoscopy remains the most sensitive test but is invasive and not without risk
- CT Virtual colonoscopy is a viable safer alternative with good patient compliance, cost & performance characteristics

Anastomotic tumour recurrence



Bowel Obstruction



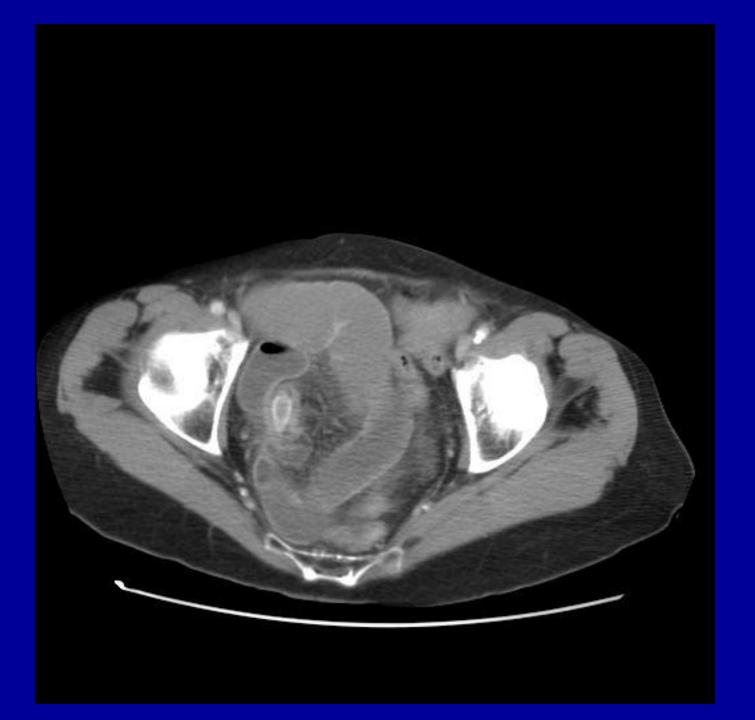


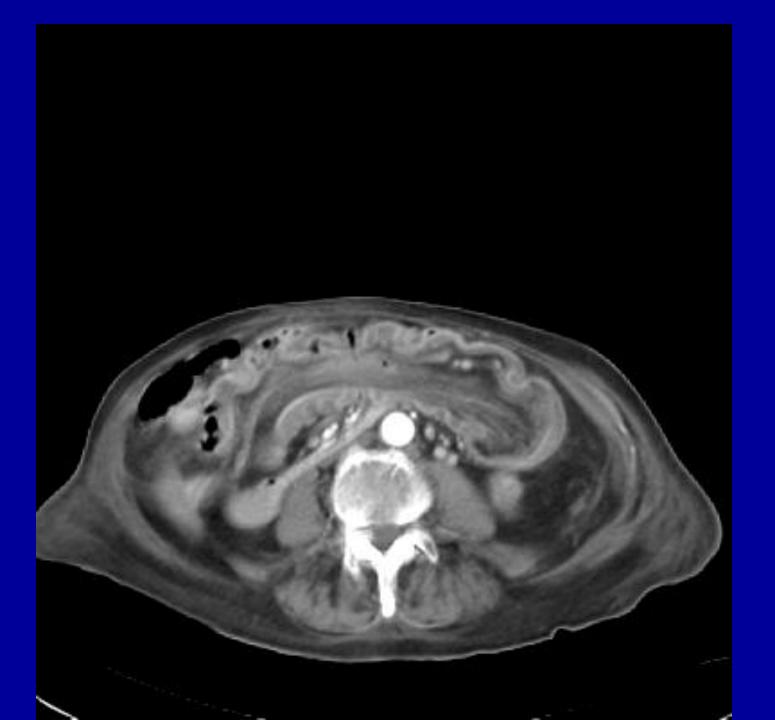




Ca Ovary



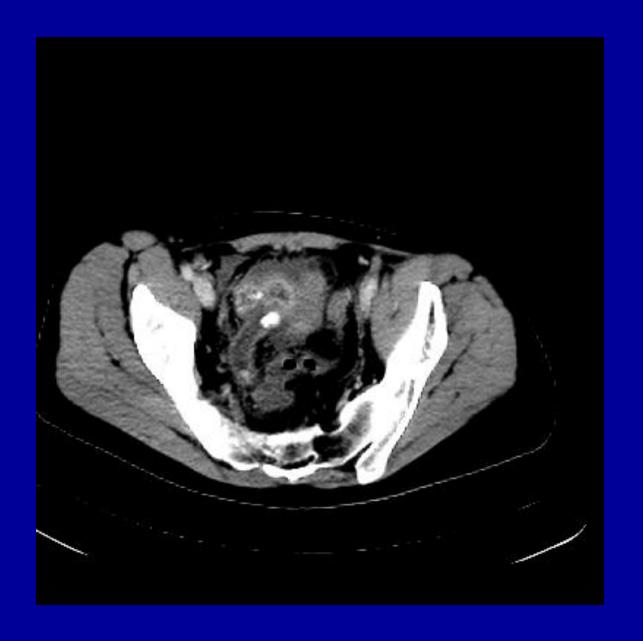


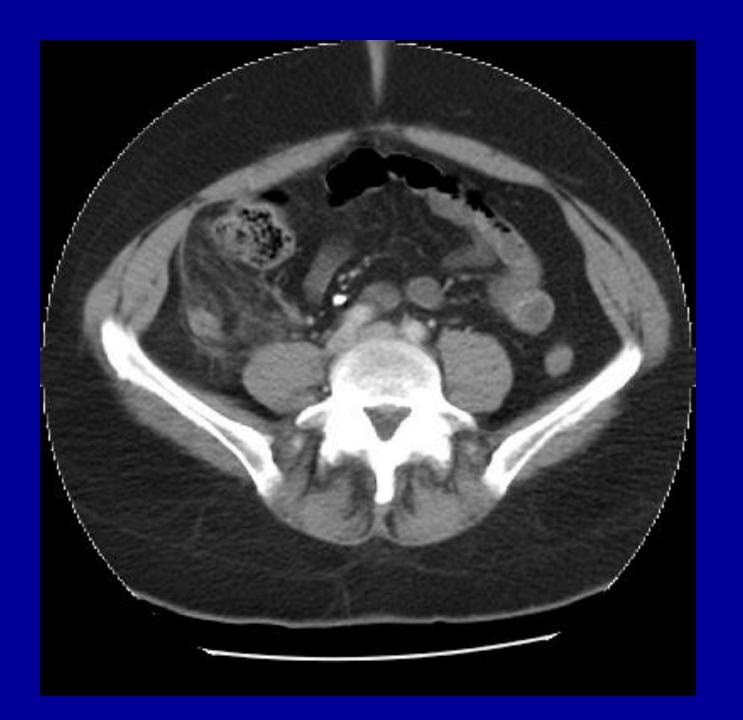


Diverticular Abscess

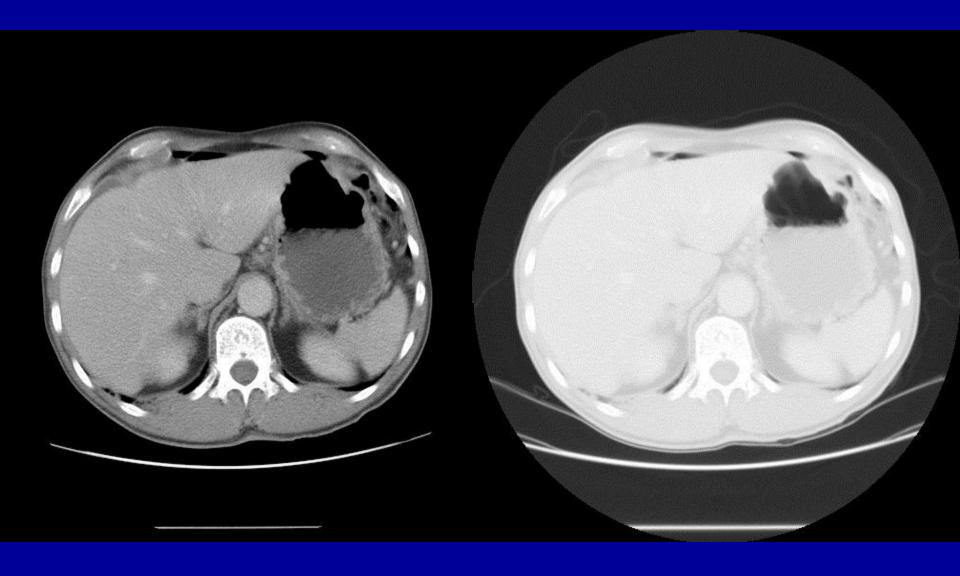








Perforation



Radiation dose

High
CT abdo/pelvis 8-10mSv
Risk of cancer 1 in 1000 per mSv
Background 2.5 mSv/year

Major cause of man-made radiation

Summary

Excellent imaging method for a wide spectrum of abdominal/GI disease

Radiation dose a limitation