	Intra-abdominal Sepsis	Gastric Outlet Obstruction	Small Bowel Obstruction	Large Bowel Obstruction
History				
Onset	Sudden	Insidious	***Sudden***	Gradual
Content	Yellow/green	***Old food***	***Bilious/green***	Feculent
Volume	Variable	Large	***Large***	Variable
Pain	***Severe***	Nil	***Cramping central***	Vague
Bowel function	Unchanged	Unchanged	Late obstipation	***Obstipation early***
Examination				
Pyrexia	***Yes***	No	No	No
LOW/anaemia	No	Yes	No	Yes
Peritonism	***Yes***	No	No	No
Abdo distention	Variable	No	***Yes***	***Marked***
PR	Normal	Normal	Variable	***Empty***
Special Investigations				
Plain X-ray	Ileus Subphrenic air Normal	Gastric distention	Multiple small bowel air-fluid levels Little or no gas in large bowel	Distended large bowel