

Fever

Fever-beaver

Inflammation and infection of the diverticula seen in diverticulitis can produce a fever.

Rectal Bleeding

Rectum-rectangle Bleeding

Diverticula often contain small blood vessels. When these vessels rupture, diverticula will bleed, causing hematochezia, or bleeding from the rectum.

Alternating Constipation and Diarrhea

Corked Con-toilet and Toilet

Patients with diverticular disease initially experience chronic constipation and then diarrhea.

Considerations

Peritonitis

Parrot-toe-on-fire

If the diverticula become inflamed and rupture, peritonitis or inflammation of the peritoneum can develop. Hypovolemic shock can occur in patients with peritonitis, due to the large fluid shift from the vasculature into the abdominal cavity. Other lab results that may be indicative of an infection related to peritonitis are an elevated C-reactive protein level and leukocytosis with a shift to the left (increased number of immature neutrophils).