

Ulcerative Colitis

Ulcerative colitis is a bowel disease. The cause is not known. The inner lining of the colon, also called the large intestine, becomes irritated or inflamed. Tiny sores or ulcers form. This often starts in the lower part of the colon and can spread.

Signs

You may have some or all of the these signs:

- Stomach pain
- Diarrhea
- Bleeding in stool or from the rectum
- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss
- Loss of body fluids, also called dehydration

Your Care

Your doctor will check you and order tests. These tests may include:

- A stool sample to test for blood.
- A barium enema to see an x-ray picture of the colon.
- A test to look at the inside of the rectum and colon. Sometimes a tissue sample, called a biopsy, is taken to be checked in the lab.

Your treatment may include:

- Avoiding foods that worsen your signs
- Medicines to control colon inflammation
- Surgery

Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.