

Fistulas and Strictures in Crohn's Disease

Steven Mills, MD

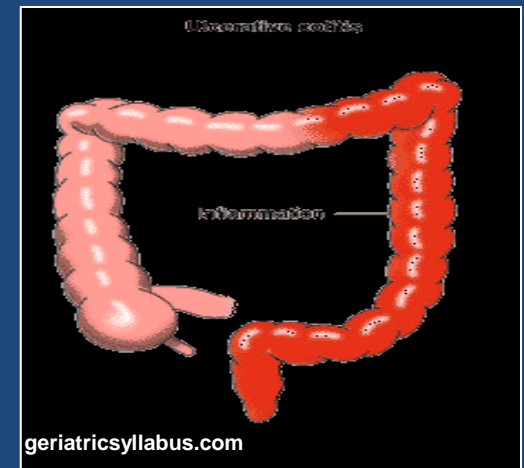
Department of Surgery

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Ulcerative Colitis

- Inflammatory disease of the colon and rectum
 - Limited to colon/rectum
 - Inflammation of innermost layer of colon/rectum (mucosa)

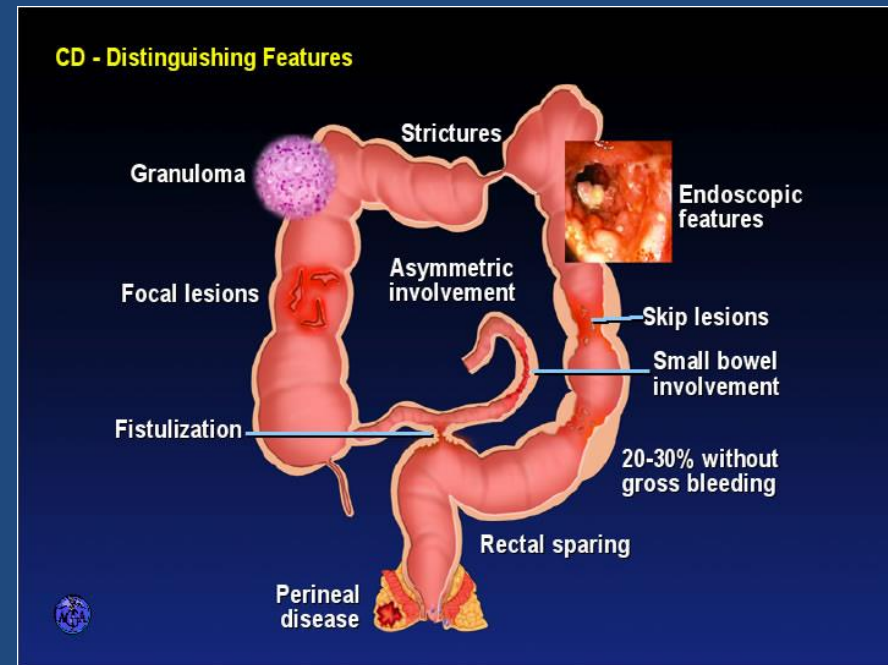


Crohn's Disease

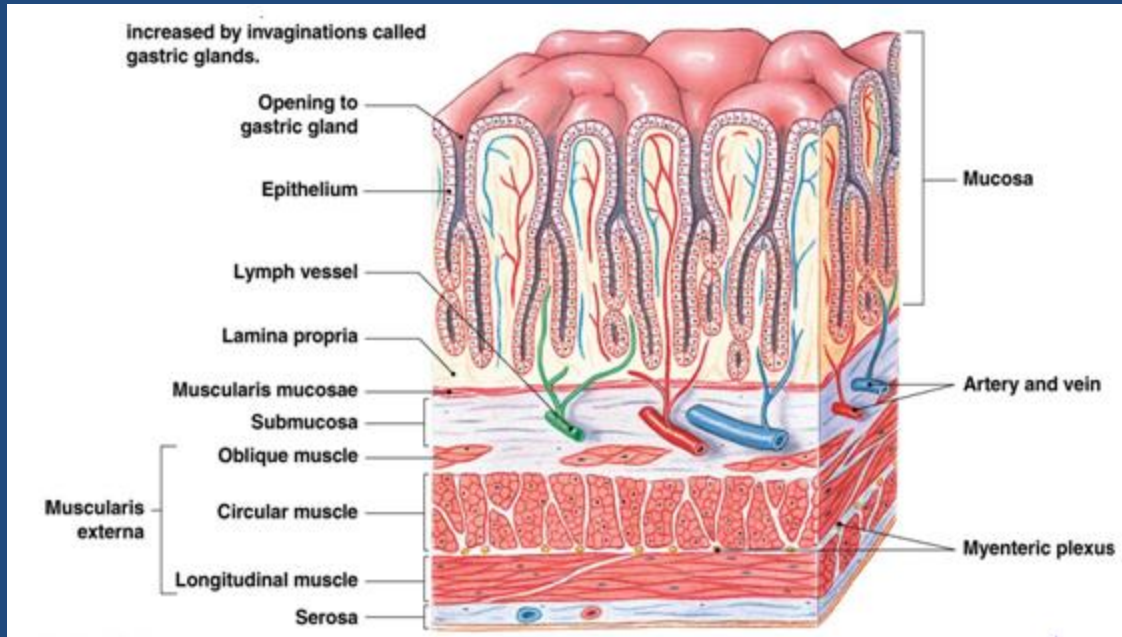
- Inflammatory disease of the intestines

- Anywhere in the GI tract (mouth to anus)

- Inflammation of all layers of the bowel wall

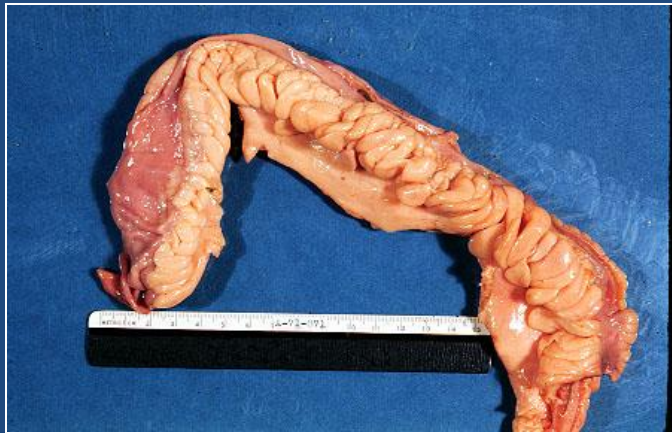


Layers of Intestinal Wall



Crohn's Disease

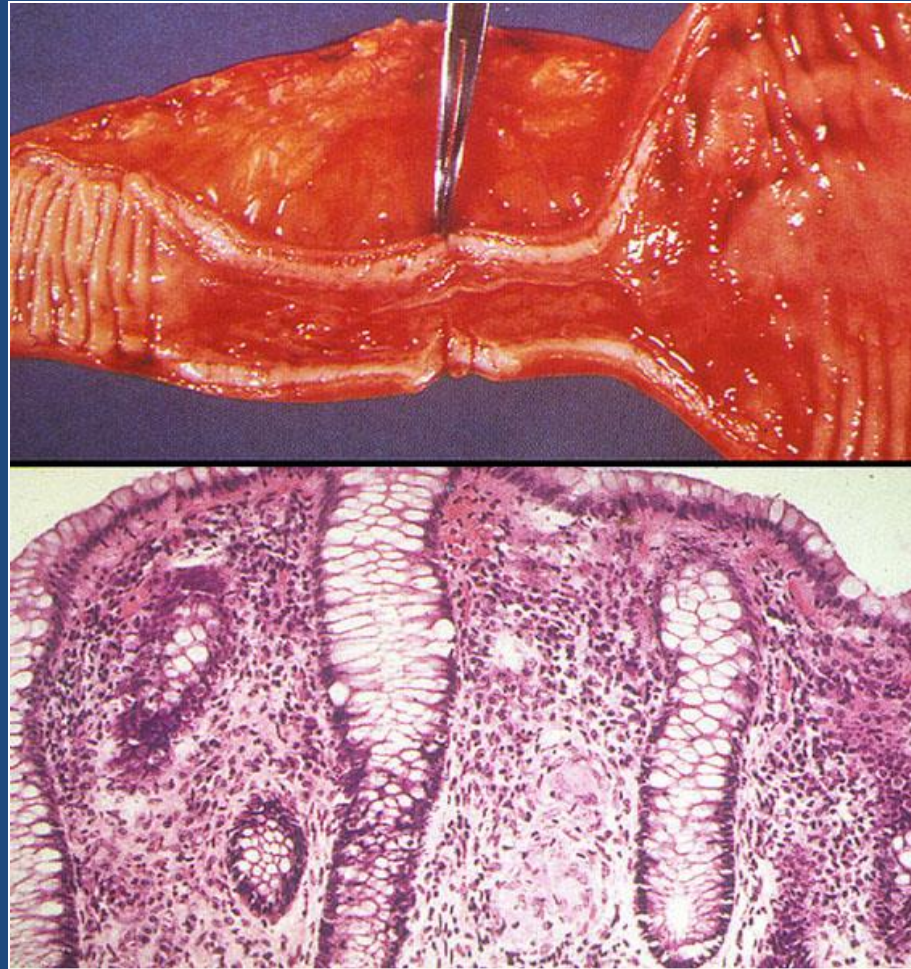
- **Most common complications (from a surgeon's perspective)**
 - Obstruction (stricture)
 - Fistula



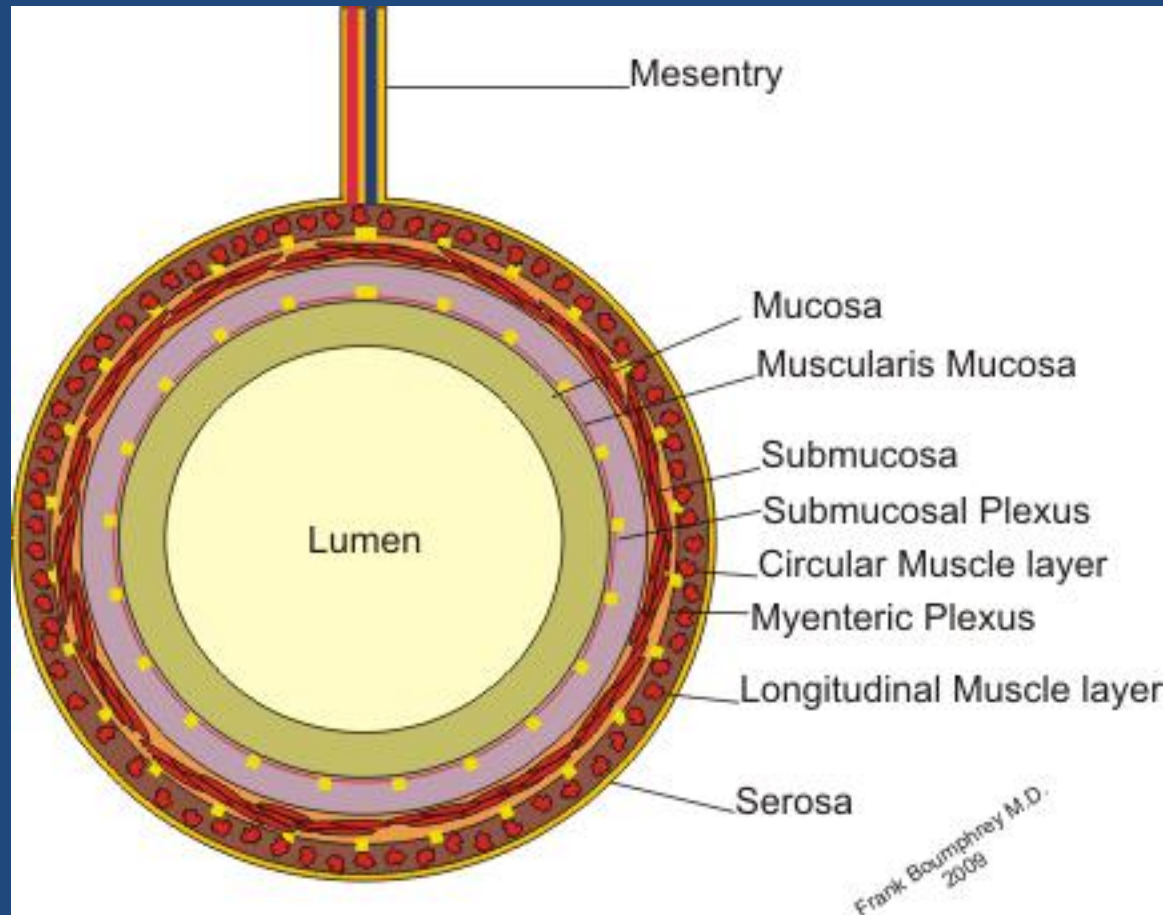
Strictures



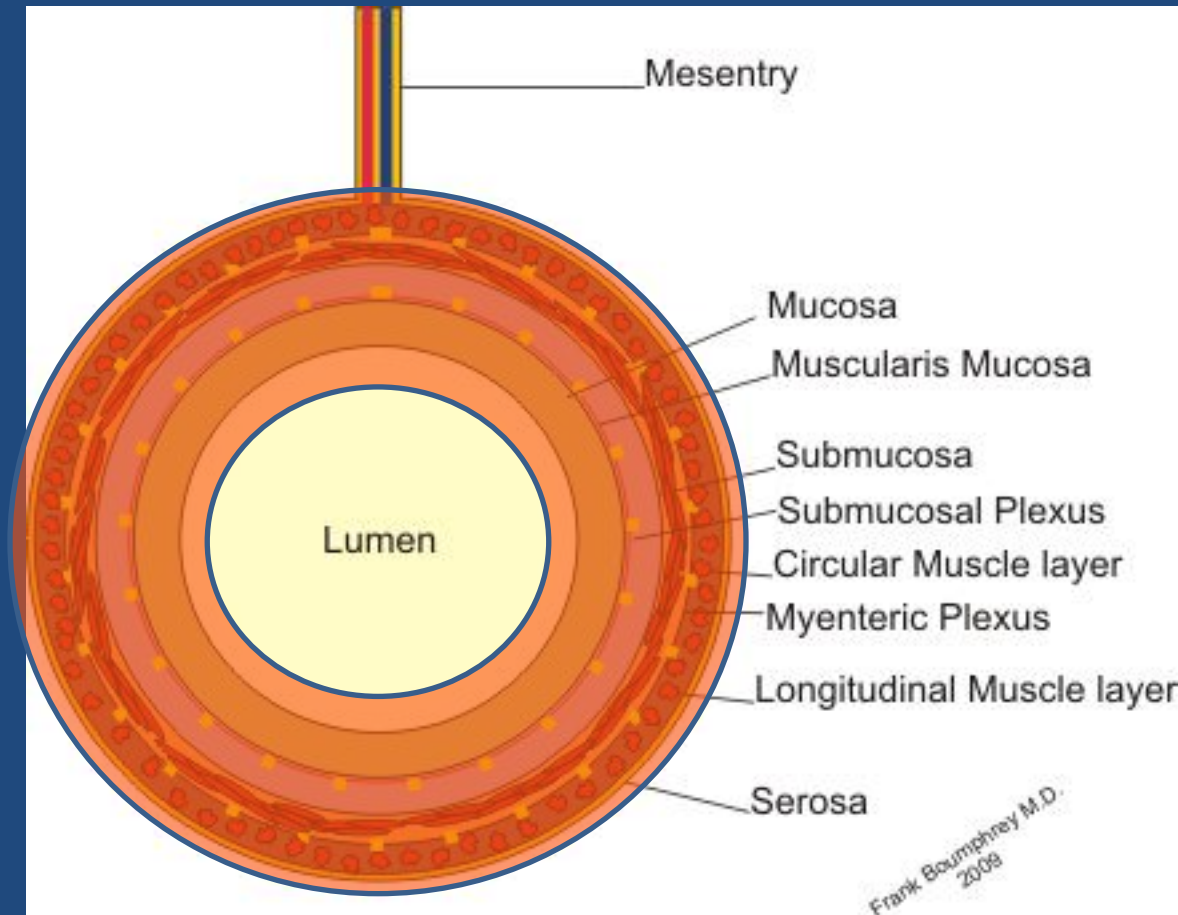
Crohn's Disease



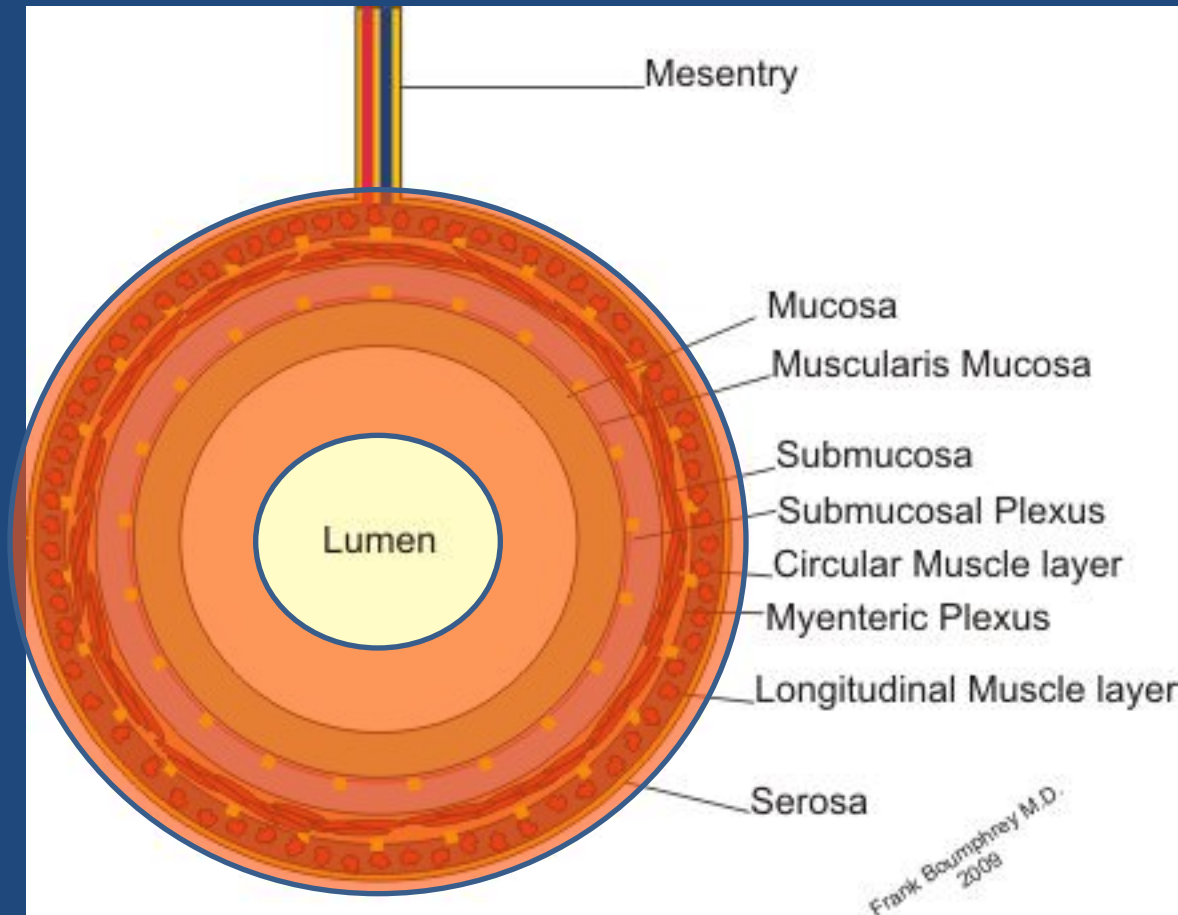
Normal Intestinal Wall



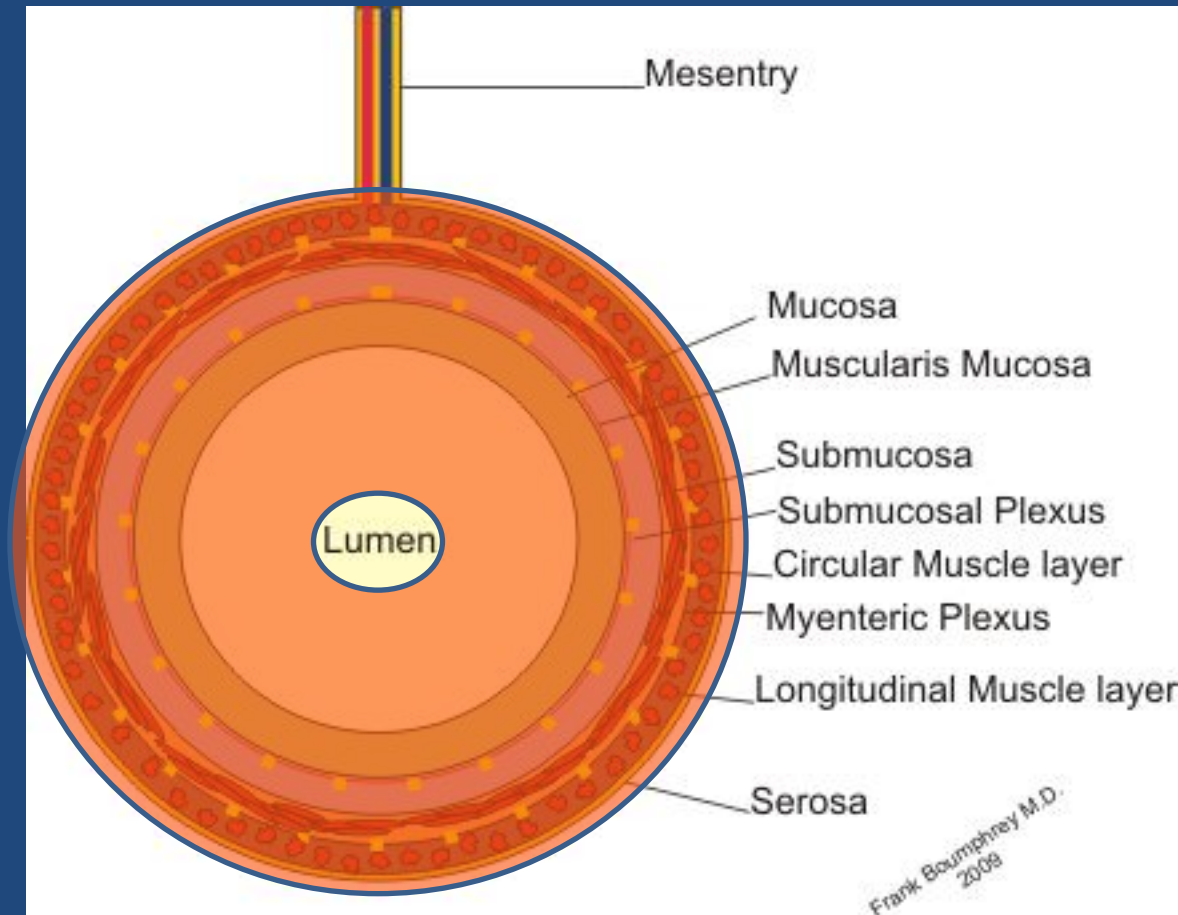
Mild Acute Inflammation



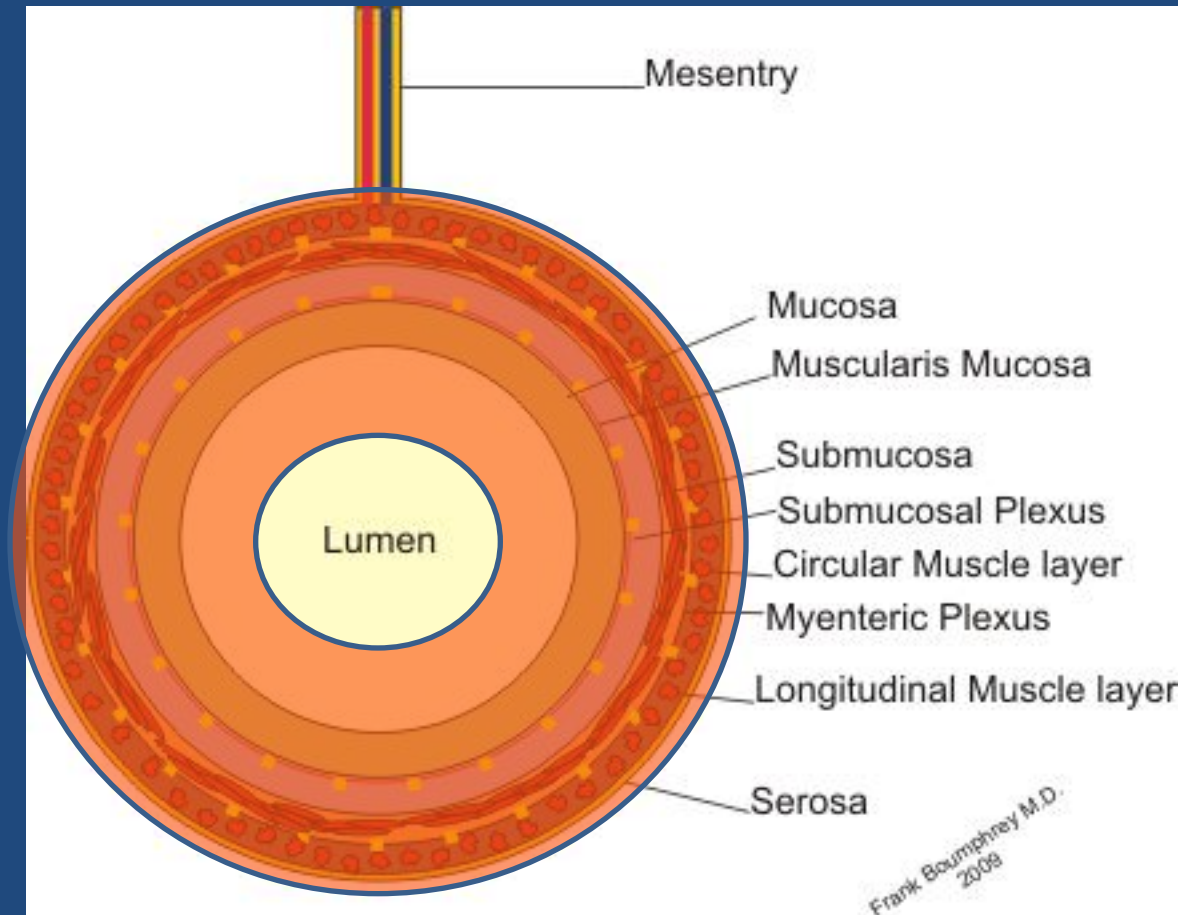
Moderate Acute Inflammation



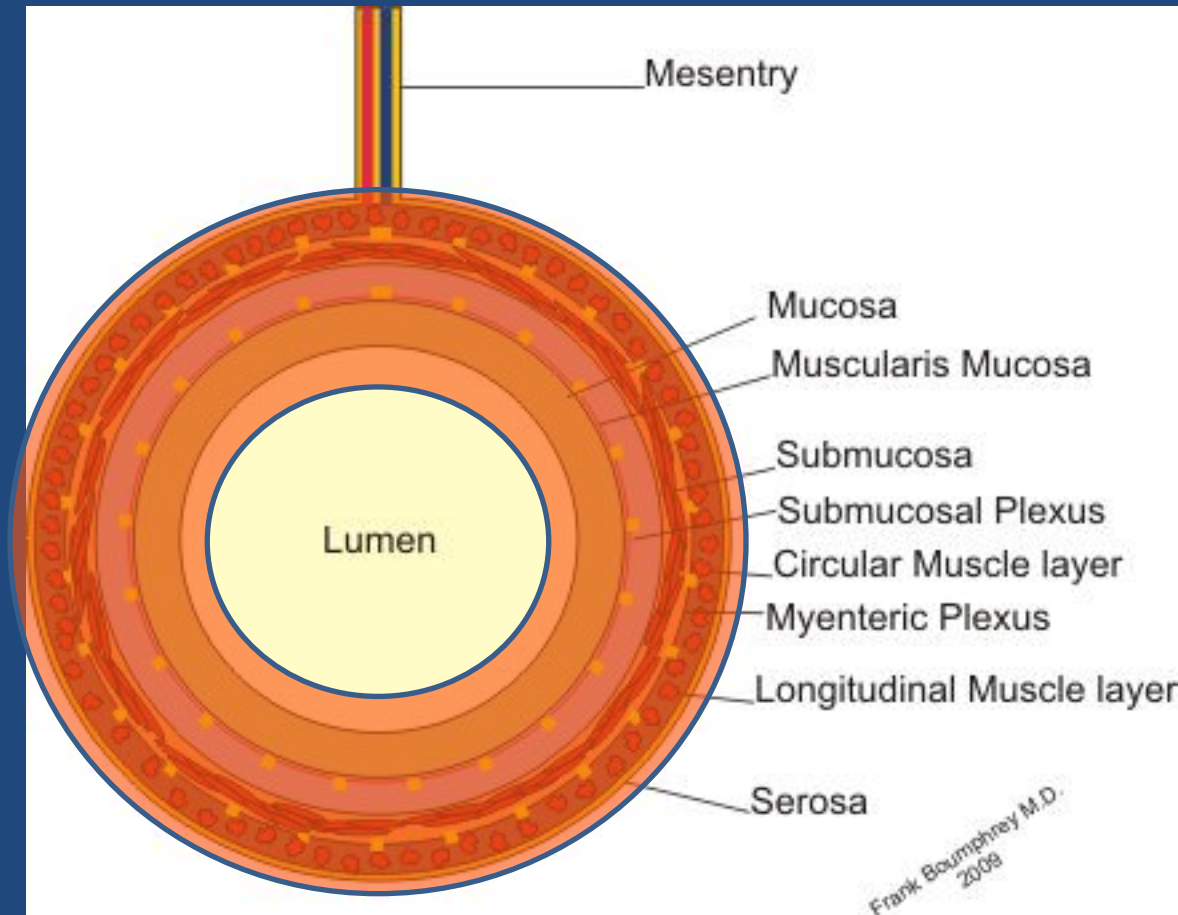
Severe Acute Inflammation



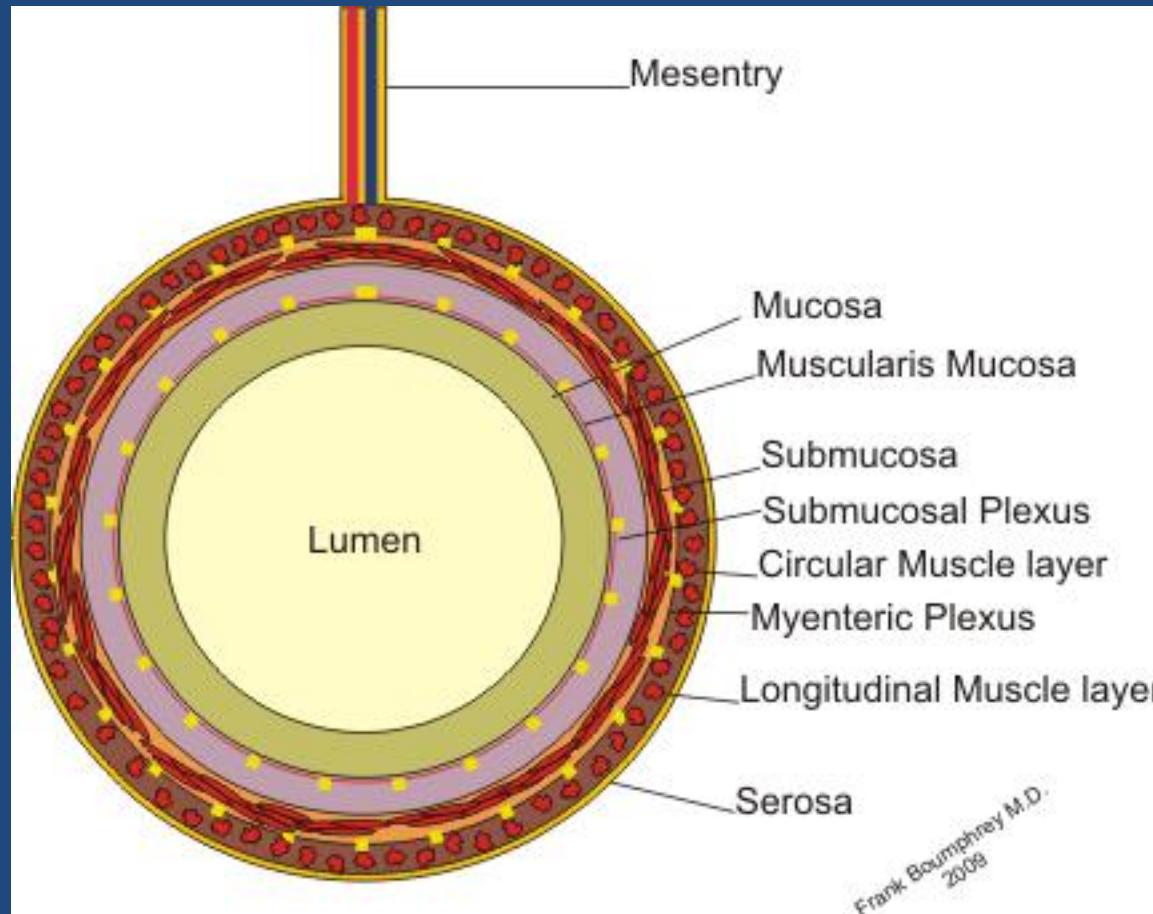
With Steroid Treatment



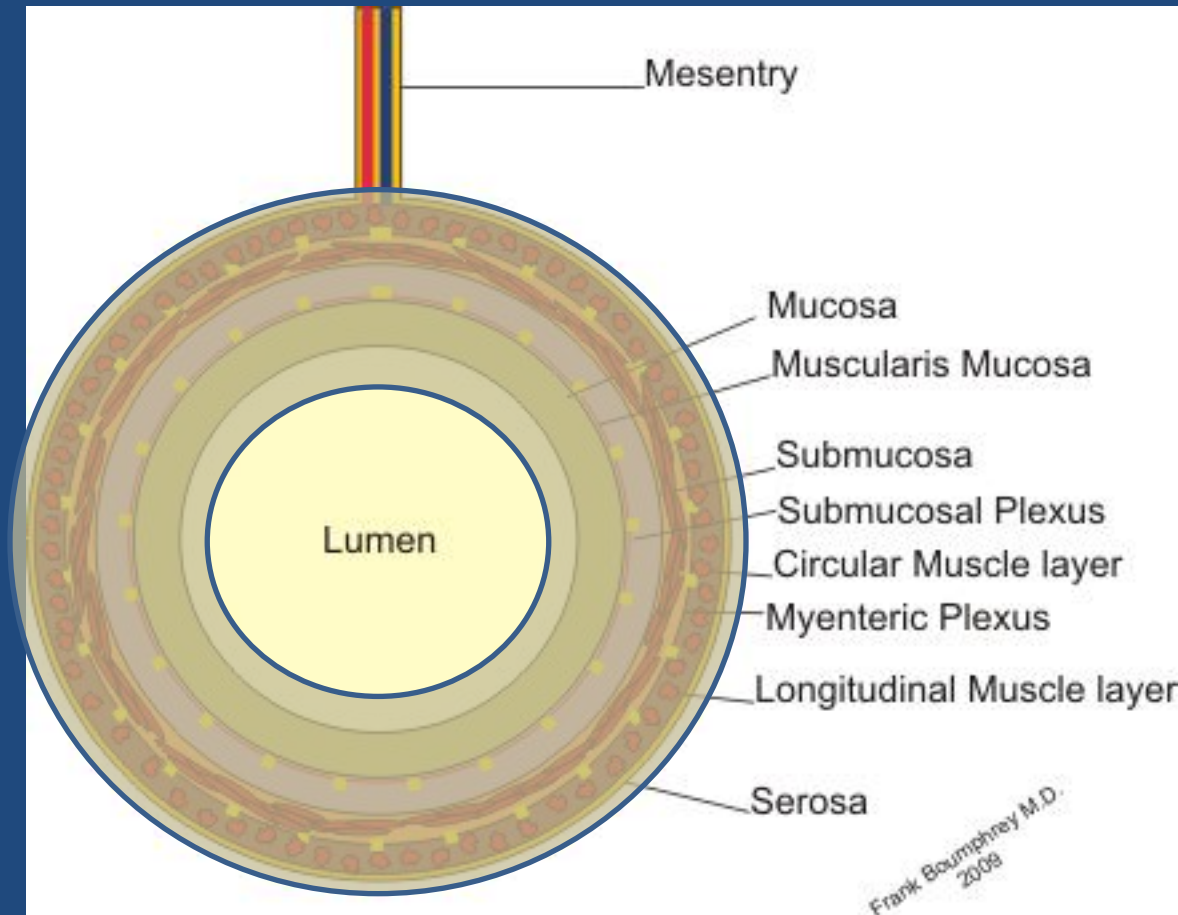
With Steroid Treatment



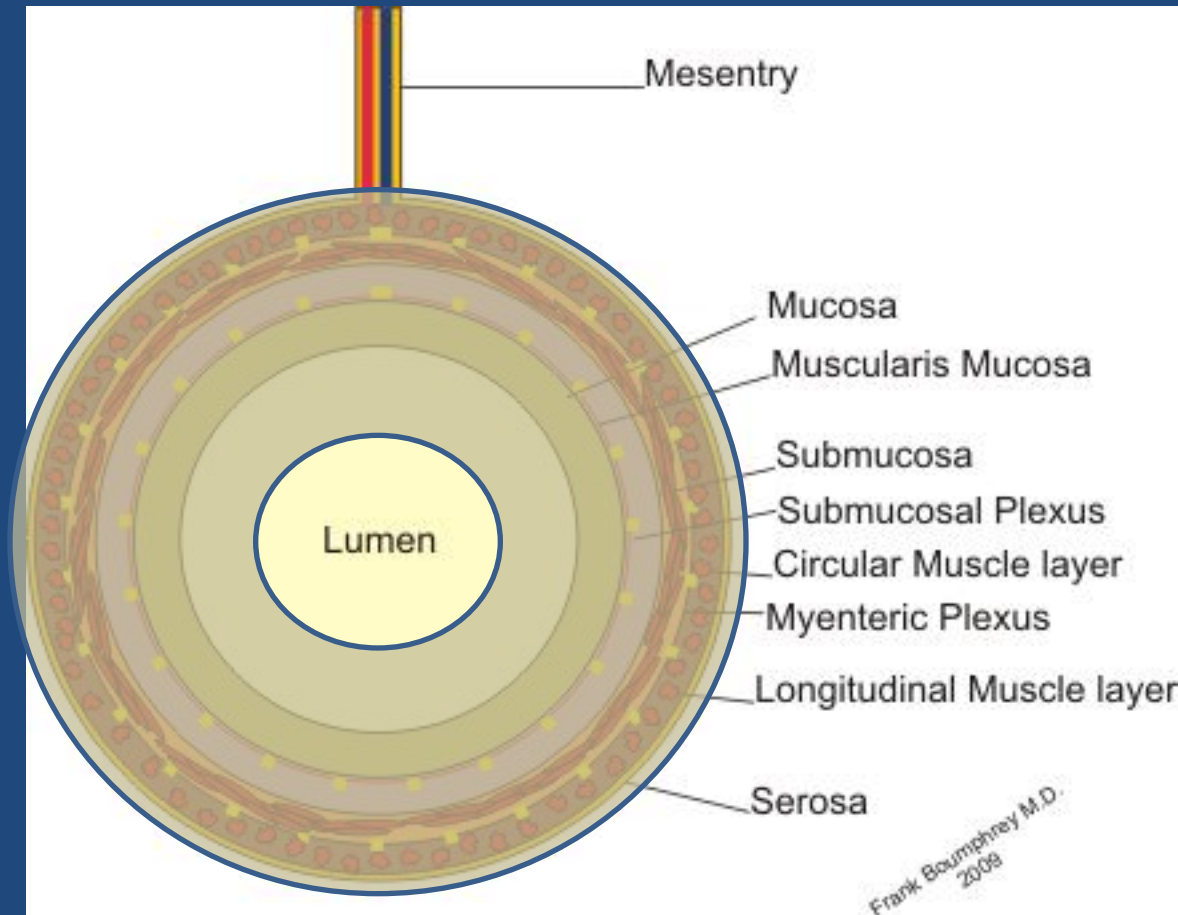
With Maintenance Treatment



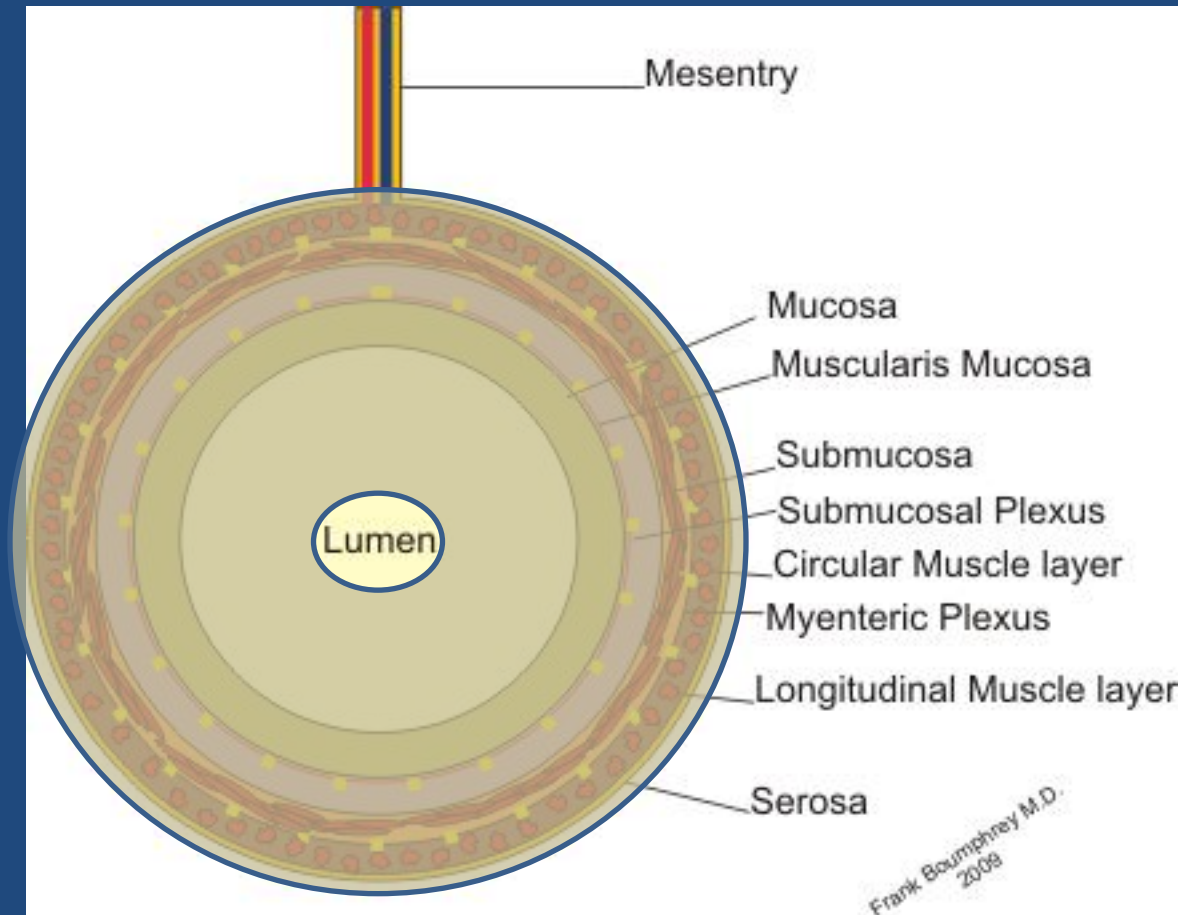
Chronic Inflammation – Scarring



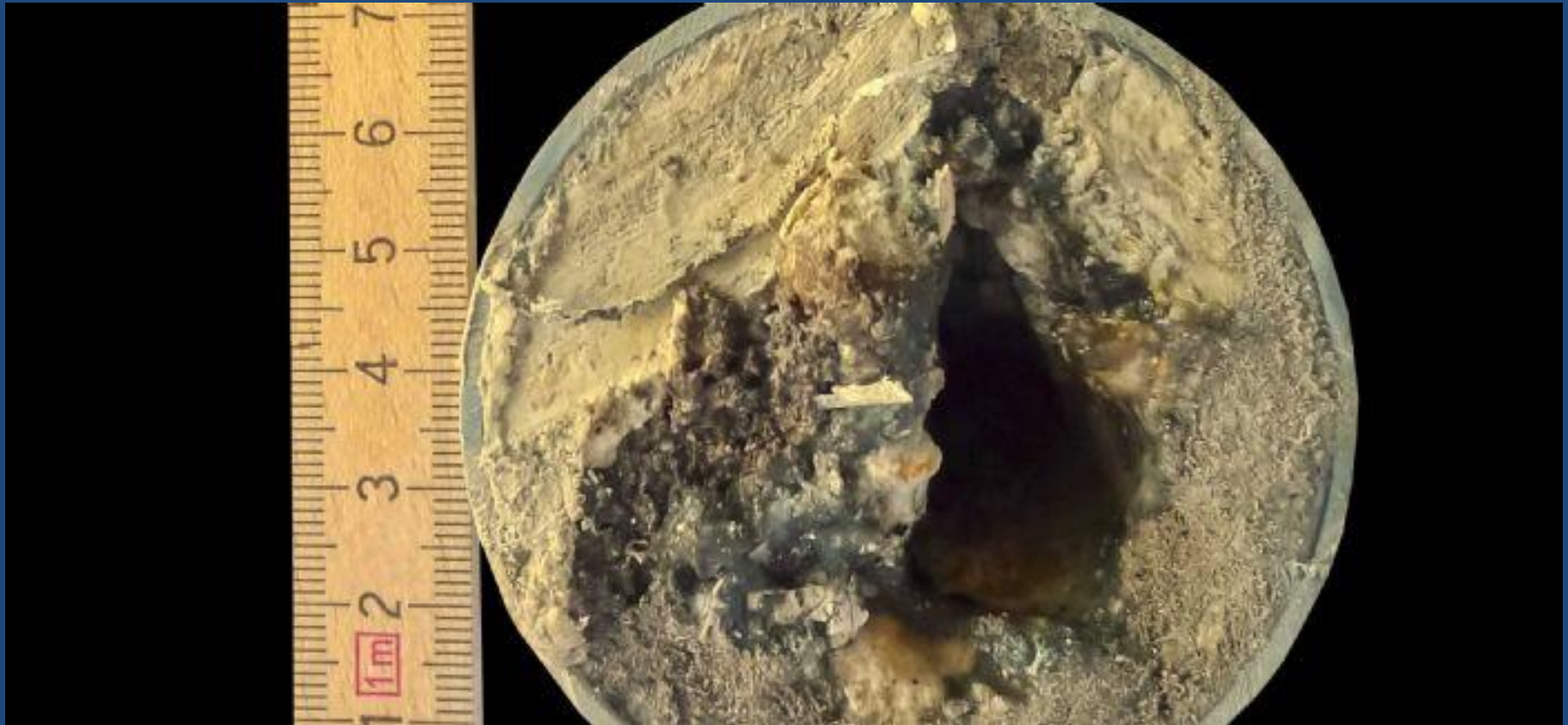
Chronic Inflammation – Scarring



Chronic Inflammation – Scarring



Like a Pipe

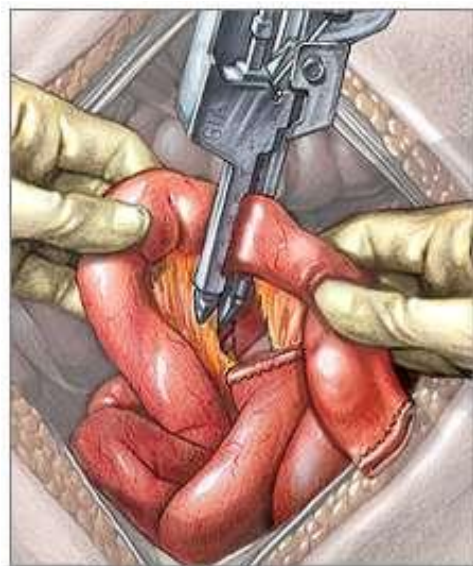


Like a Pipe



Crohn's Disease

- Surgical options are generally resection versus stricturoplasty

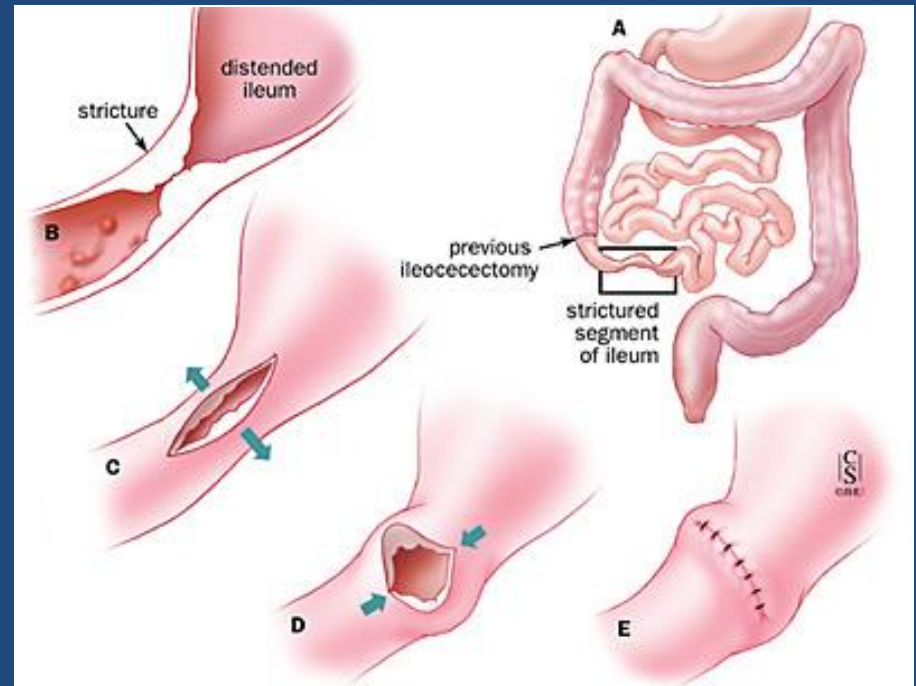


Diseased part of small bowel removed

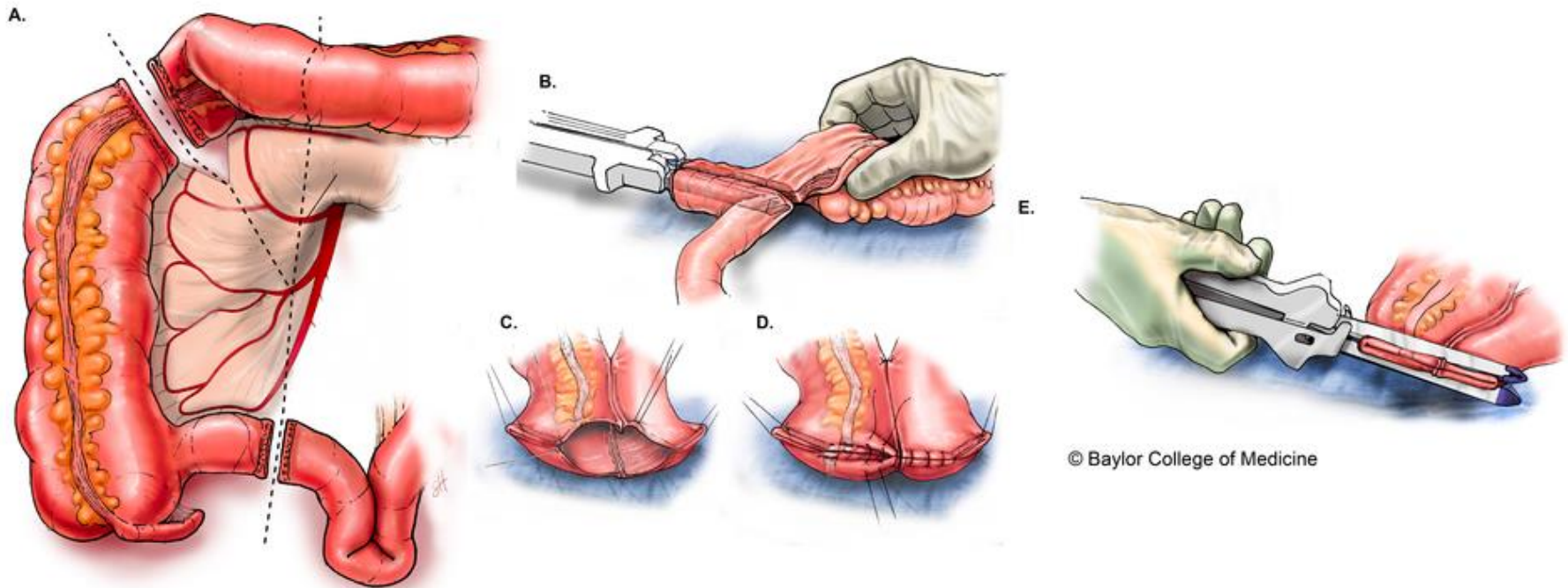


Healthy ends reattached

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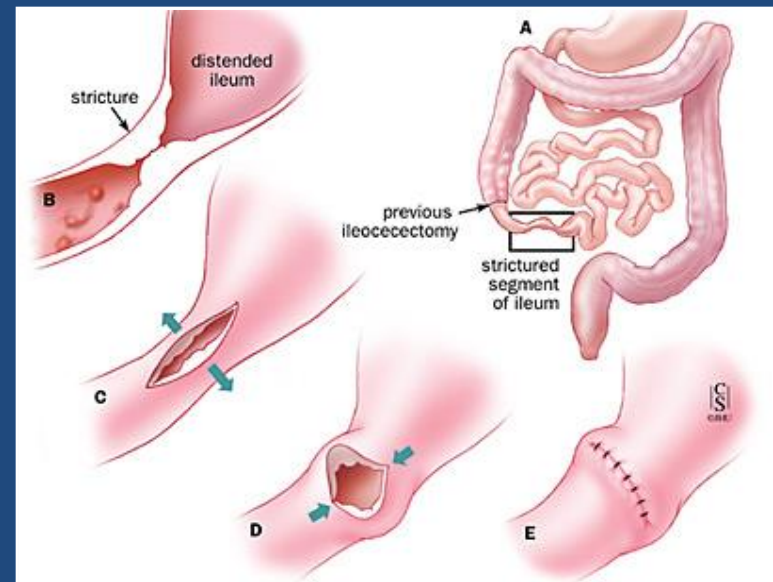
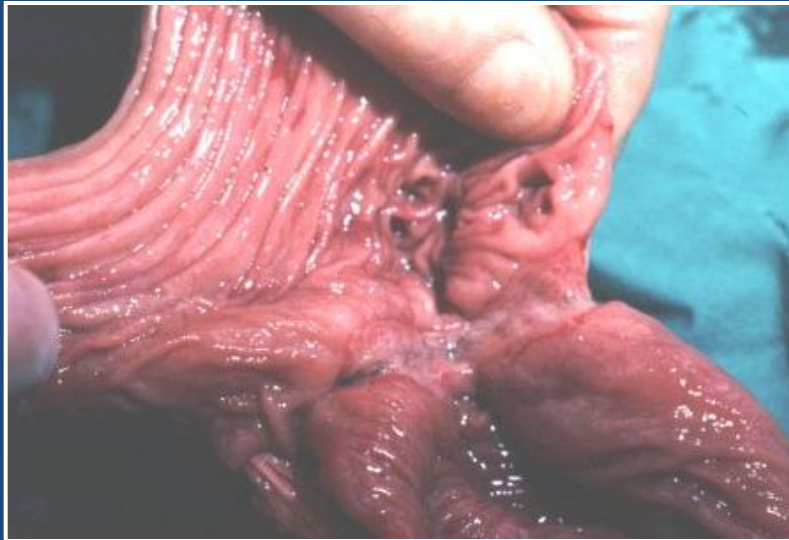


Resection

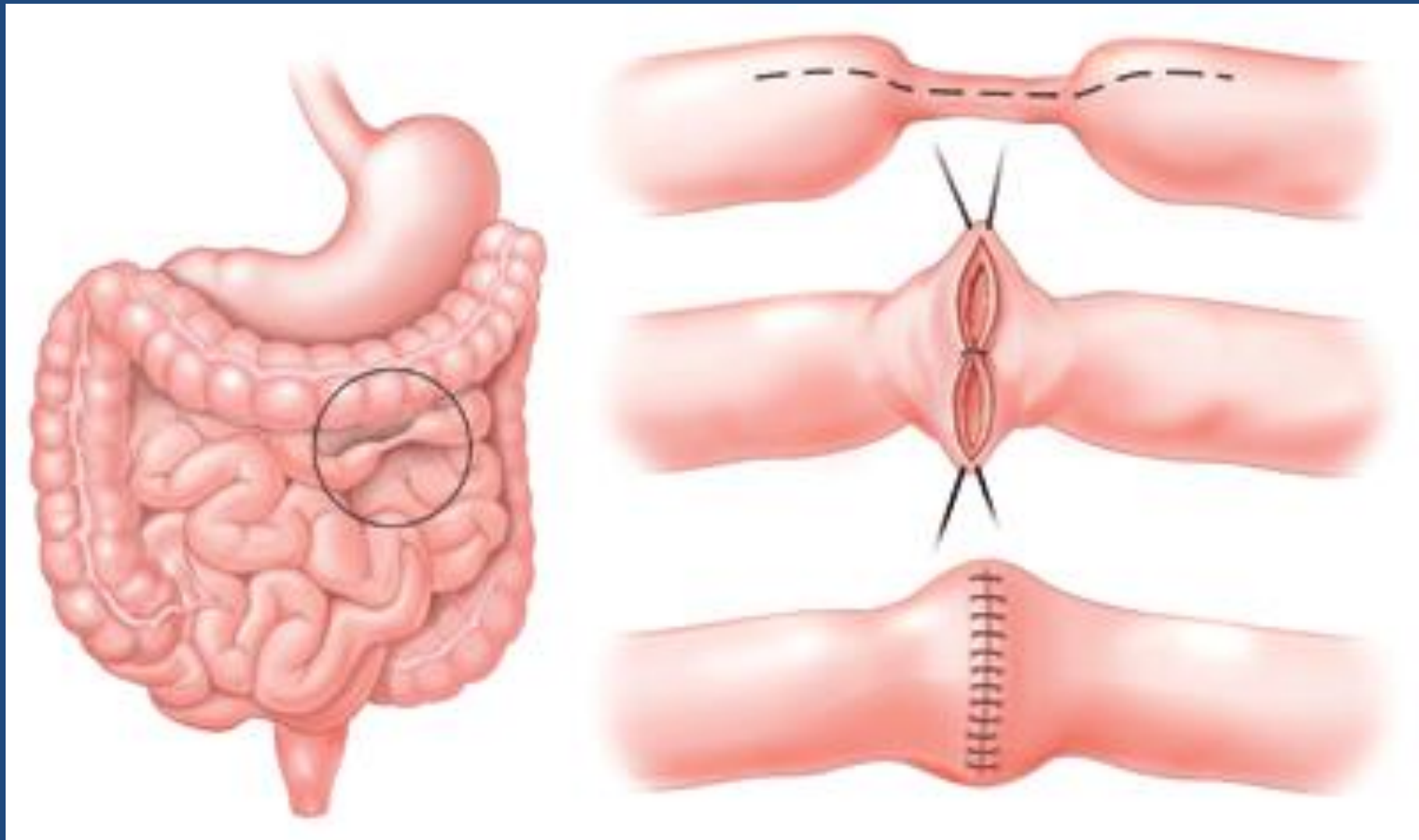


Strictureplasty

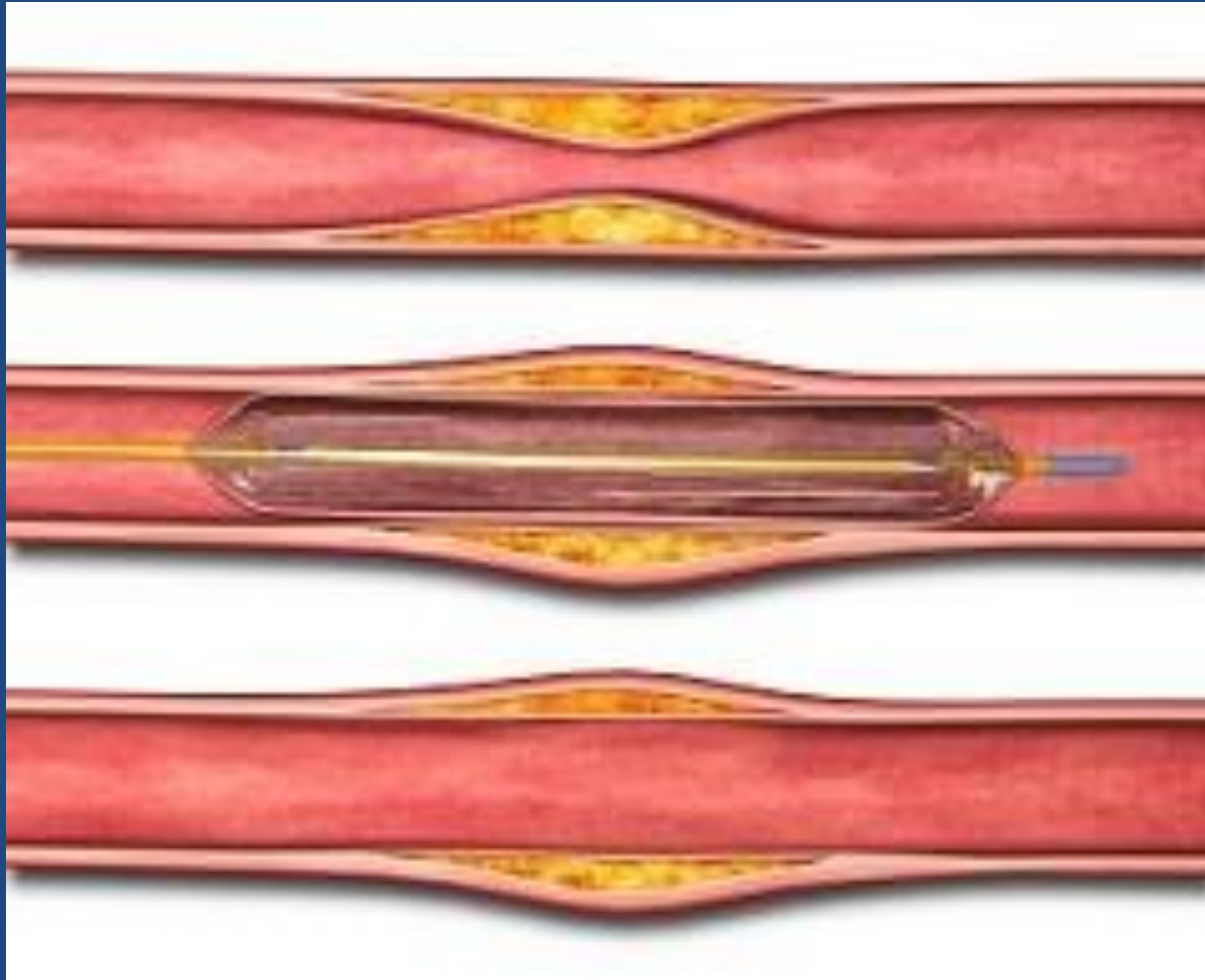
- Opens up the strictured area without decreasing length of intestine remaining for absorption



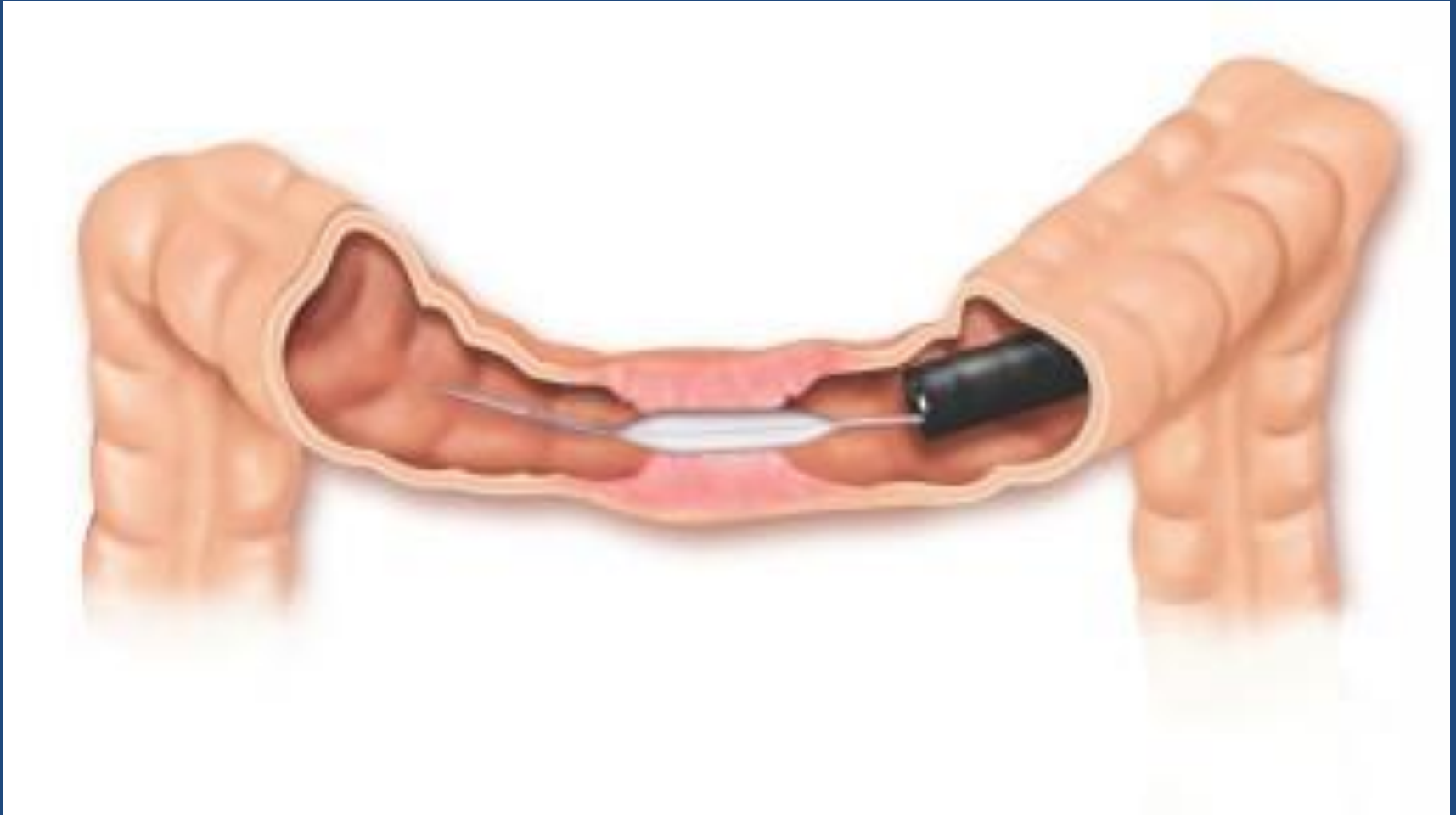
Strictureoplasty



Endoscopic Therapy



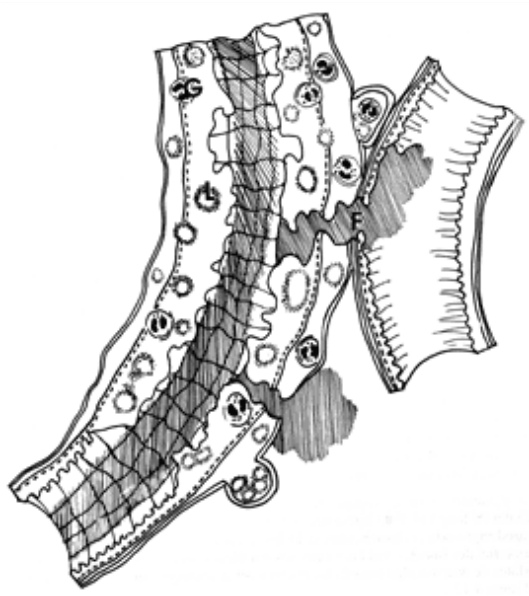
Endoscopic Therapy



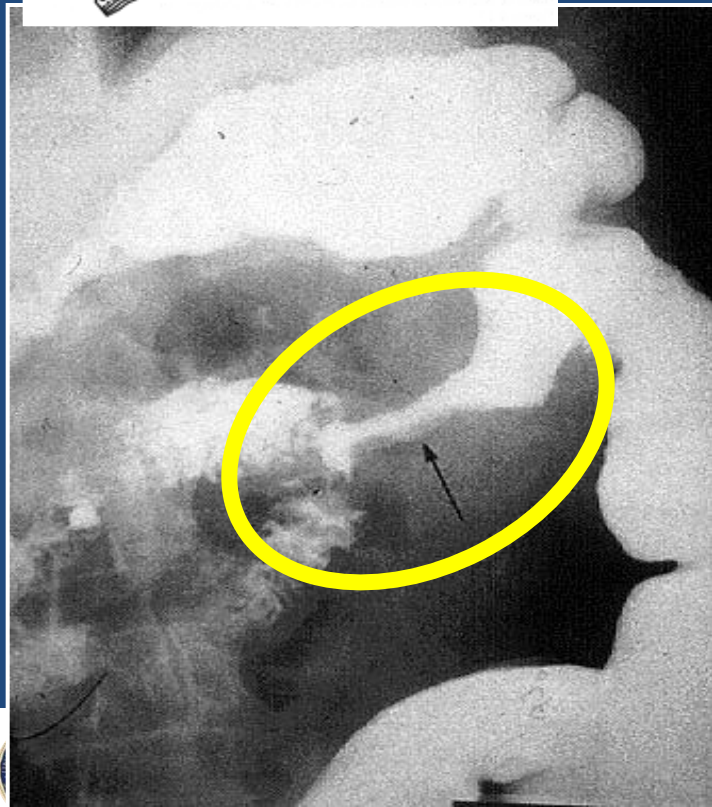
Fistulas



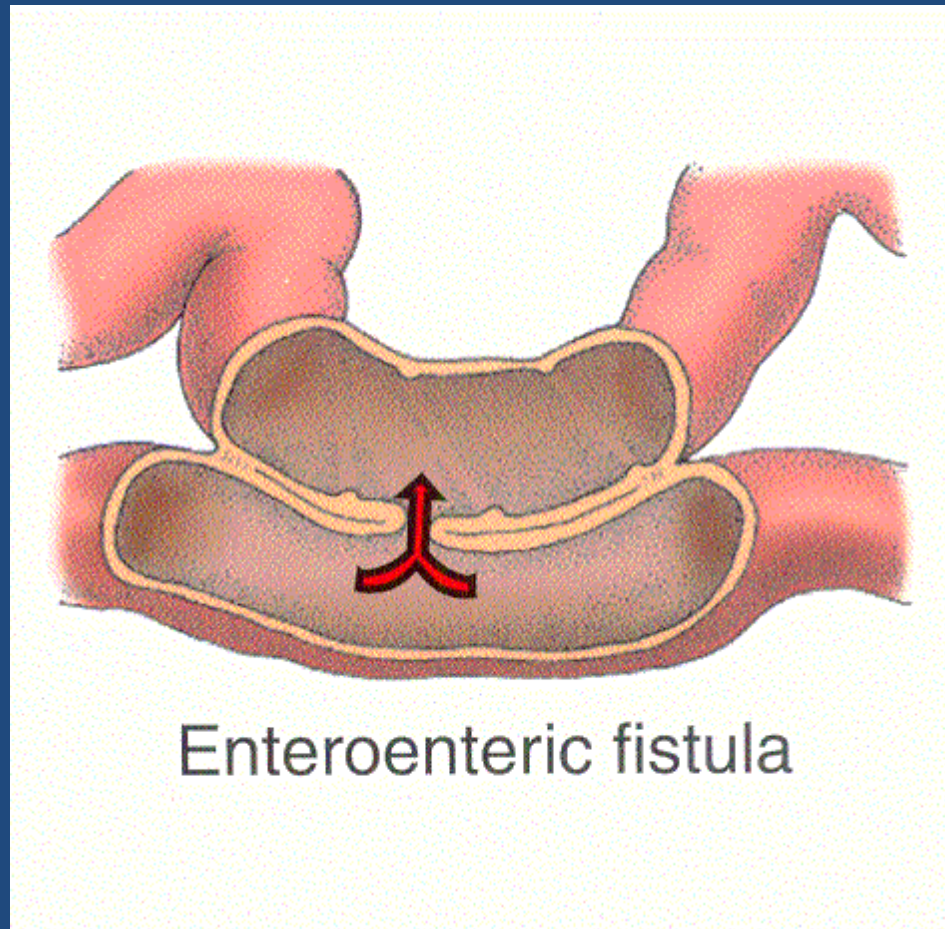
Crohn's Fistula



- Fistula is “epithelialized connection between two epithelialized structures”
 - Small intestine to small intestine
 - Small intestine to skin
 - Small intestine to colon
 - Small intestine to bladder
 - Colon to bladder
 - Colon to skin
- Often treated with resection



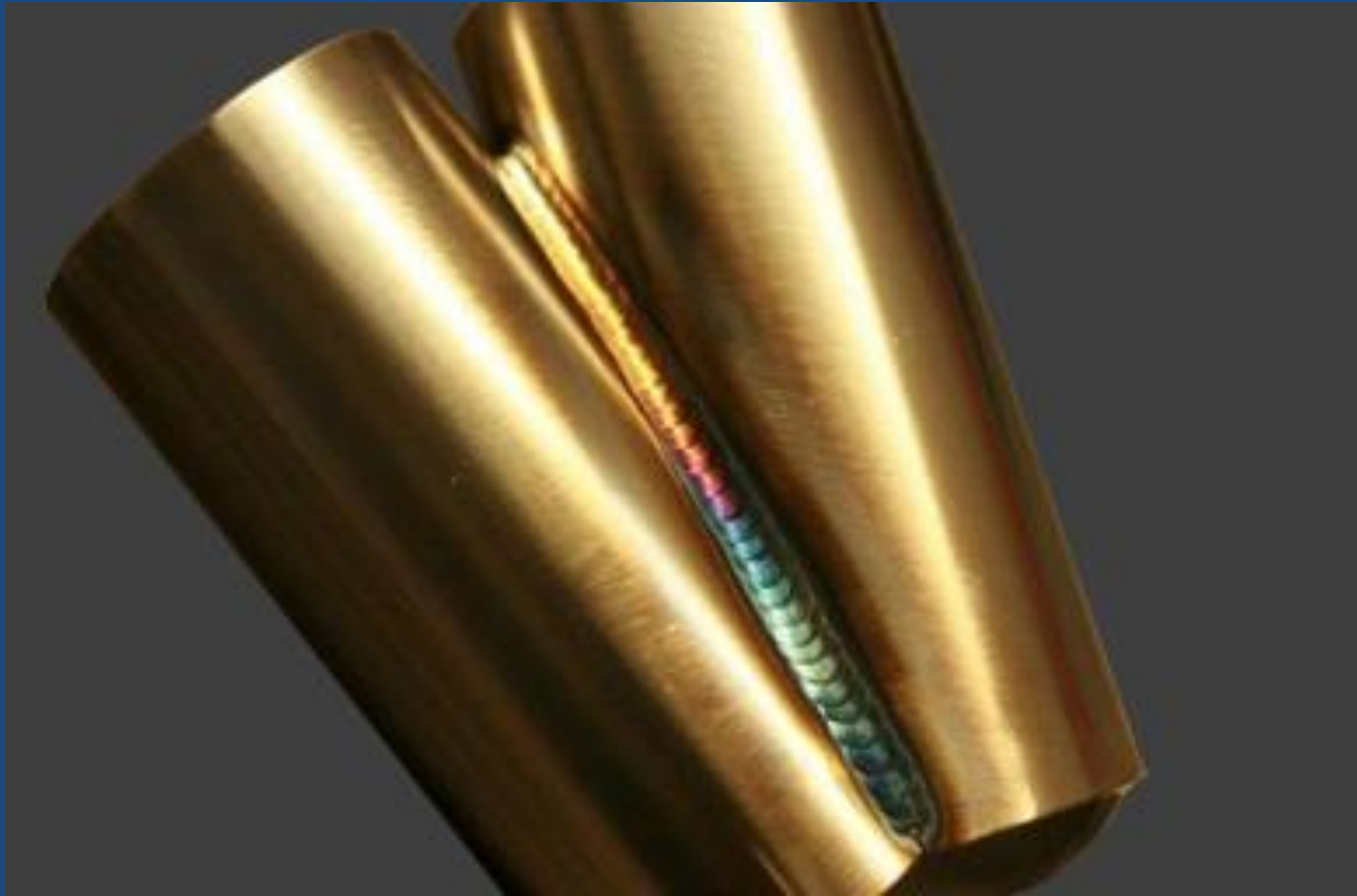
Fistula



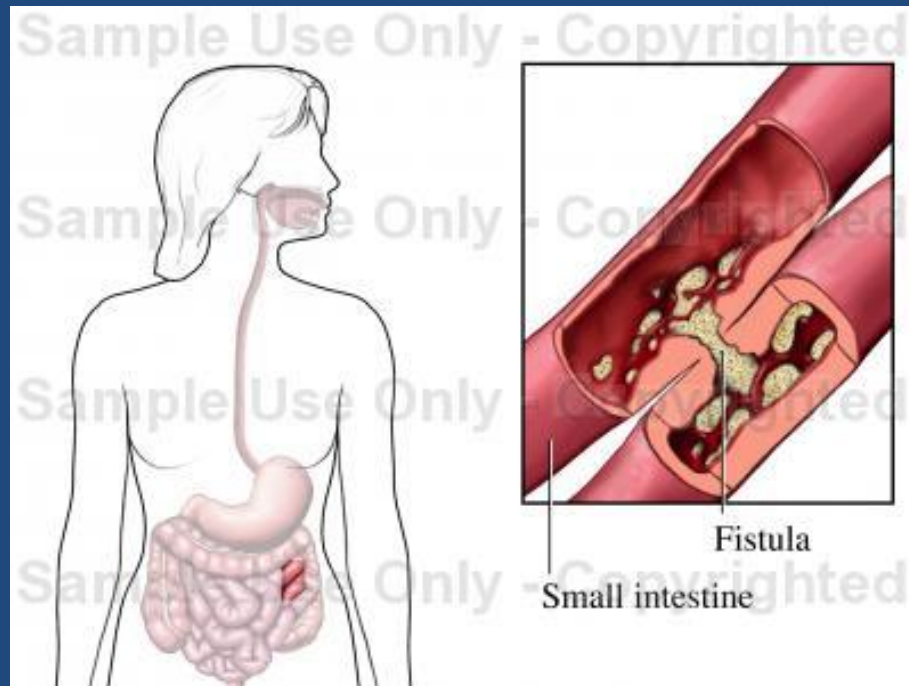
Inflammation is Like Welding



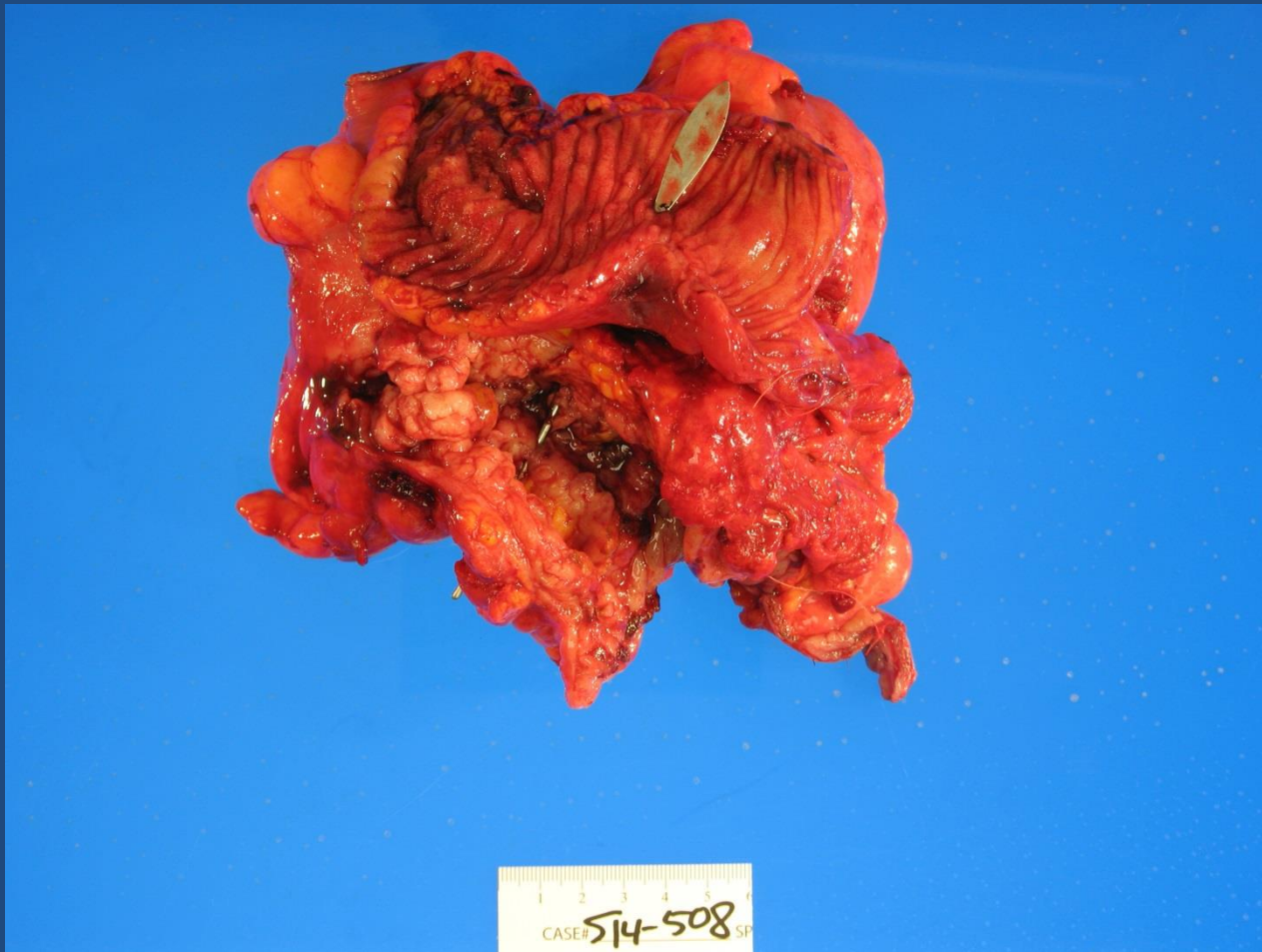
Inflammation is Like Welding



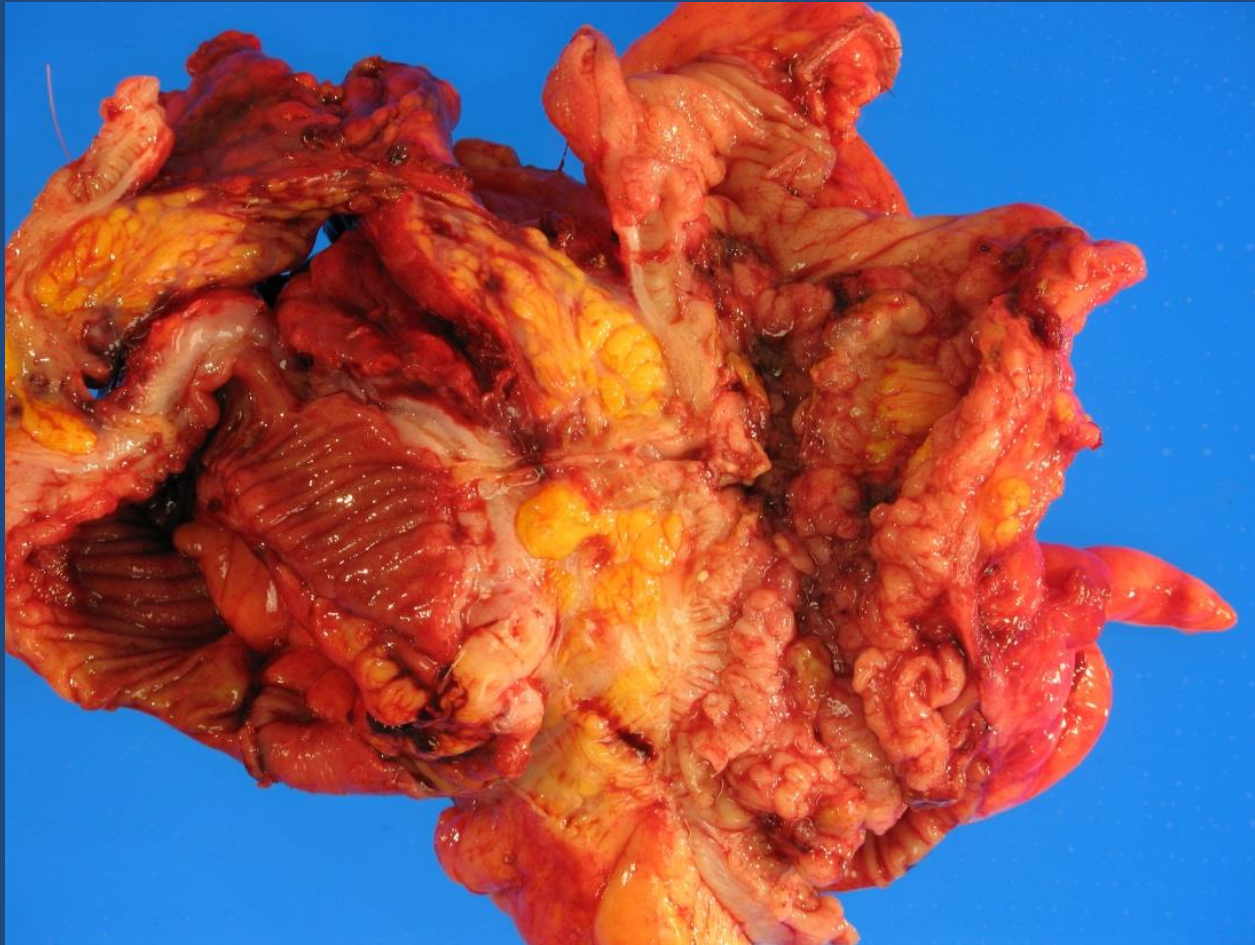
Fistula



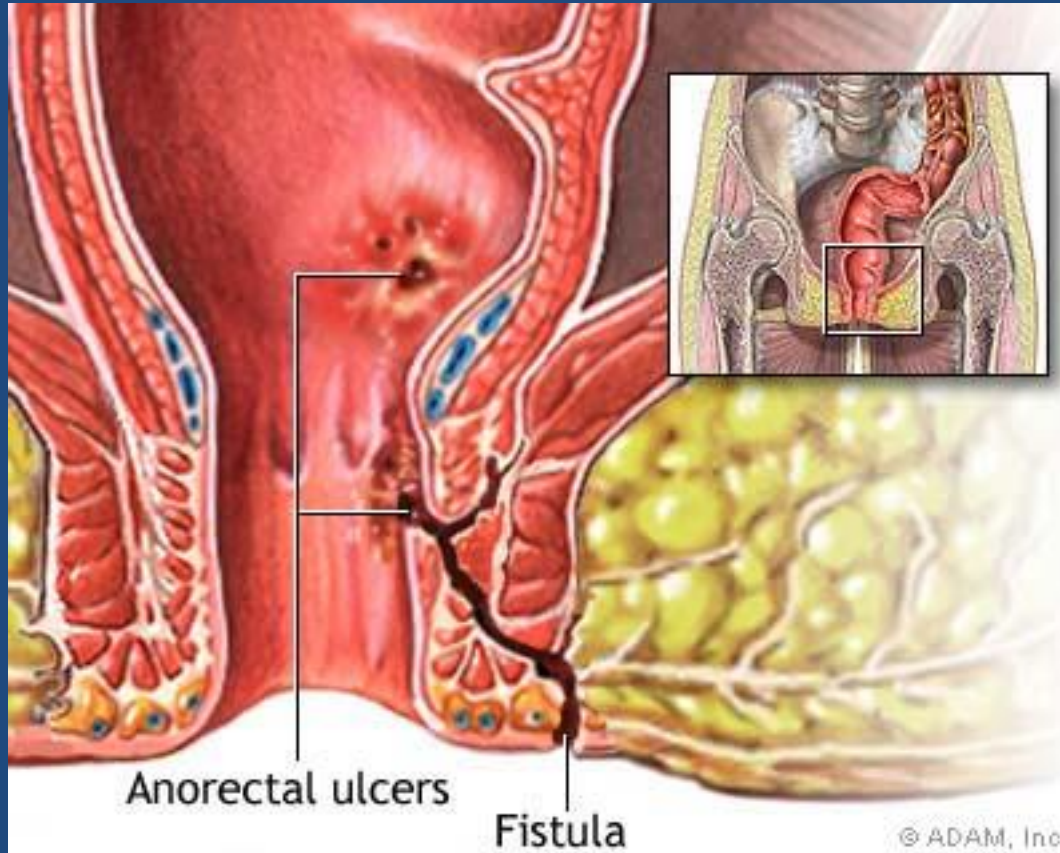
Fistula



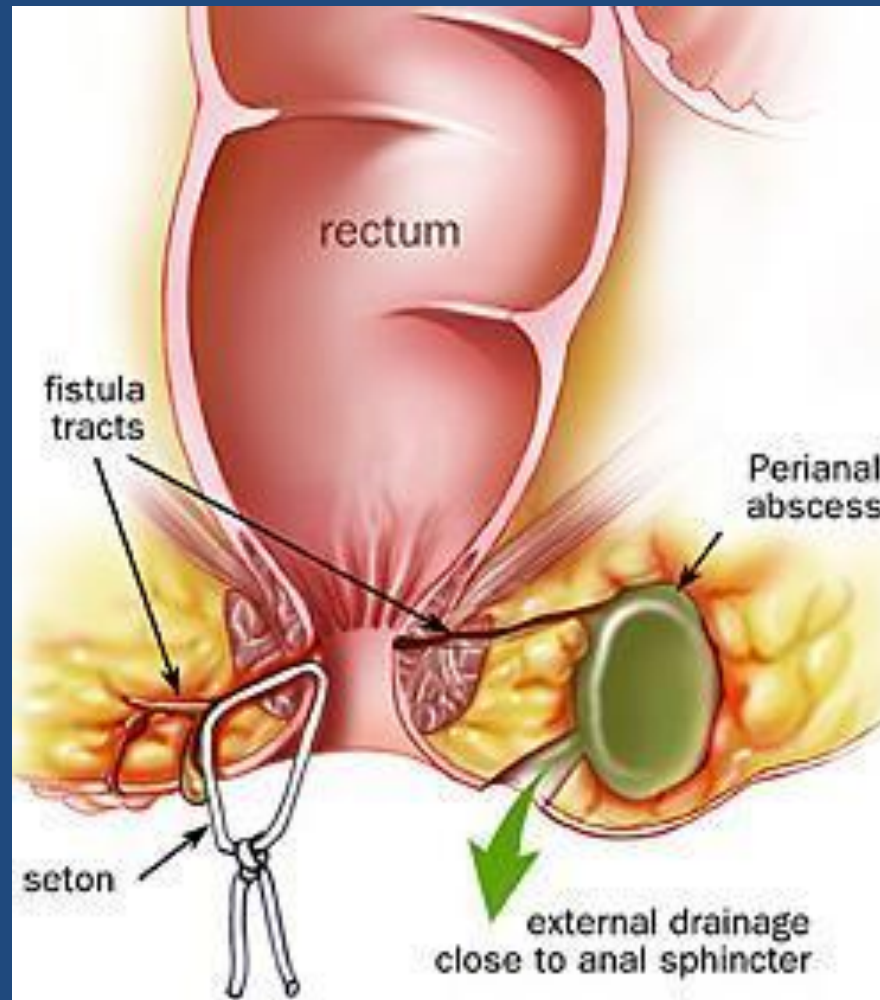
Fistula



Perianal Fistulas



Perianal Fistulas



Crohn's Strictures and Fistulas

- **Inflammation can lead to strictures or fistulas**
- **Medications to control inflammation may prevent both problems**
- **Surgery often used to fix strictures and fistulas**





