

Table 19.1 Abnormal Abdominal Sounds

| SOUND | LOCATION | CAUSATIVE FACTORS |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| <i>Bowel Sounds</i> | | |
| Hyperactive sounds | Any quadrant | Gastroenteritis, diarrhea |
| Hyperactive sounds followed by absence of sound | Any quadrant | Paralytic ileus |
| High-pitched sounds with cramping | Any quadrant | Intestinal obstruction |
| <i>Vascular Sounds</i> | | |
| Systolic bruit (blowing) | Midline below xiphoid | Aortic arterial obstruction |
| | Left and right lower costal borders at clavicular line | Stenosis of renal arteries |
| | Left and right abdomen at clavicular line between umbilicus and anterior iliac spine | Stenosis of iliac arteries |
| | Epigastrium and around umbilicus | Portal hypertension |
| Venous hum (continuous tone) | | |
| <i>Rubbing</i> | | |
| Friction rub (harsh, grating) | Left and right upper quadrants, over liver and spleen | Tumor or inflammation of organ |