

Focus On: Volvulus in Infants

When a baby is born with intestines that are in the wrong position in their belly, it is a condition called intestinal malrotation.

Malrotation does not always cause symptoms, but in some cases it can lead to serious problems. One possible problem is called volvulus.

Volvulus is abnormal twisting of the intestines. It can prevent digested food from passing through, cut off blood flow, and lead to death of the tissue.

Volvulus is an emergency. Your baby will need surgery right away.

If your baby has volvulus, your baby may seem fussy at first, but they can get very sick, very quickly.

Symptoms include belly pain, green vomit, a swollen belly, and no stools or bloody stools.

During surgery, the doctor untwists the intestine and removes any part of it that is damaged.

The healthy ends of the intestine are sewn back together.

To learn more about volvulus in infants, talk to your doctor.