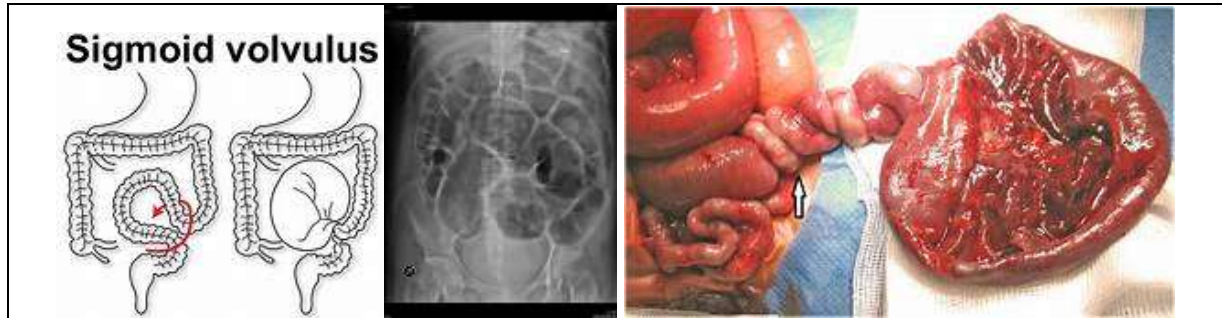


**XVII. Diseases of the Digestive System**



**Volvulus**

**A piece of intestine:**

- Shows twisting around itself and its mesentery
- A part is dull
- Another part is congested
- Evidence of necrosis
- Foci of haemorrhage
- Some inflammatory exudate

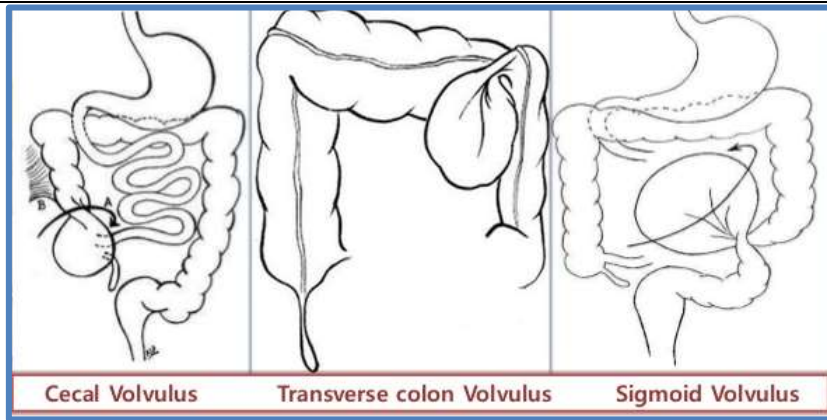
**N.B.:**

Common sites for twisting of a loop of intestine (or an organ or a tumour) a of attachment are :

1. Pelvic colon, omentum and caecum.
2. Small intestine (in children).
3. Gall bladder, spleen and testicle.
4. Fibromyoma of uterus and ovarian cysts.

**Common complications:**

1. Acute congestion and obstruction.
2. Necrosis and gangrene.
3. Septic peritonitis.



<b>Micro-Colon (congenital) III- 4, 3.</b>		
<b>Intestines:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Small in size</u></li> <li>• <u>Non-developed</u></li> <li>• <u>Have a narrow lumen</u></li> </ul>	
<b>Small intestine:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Small</u></li> <li>• <u>Shows segmental atresia</u></li> </ul>	
	<b>Upper part:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Distended with meconium</u></li> </ul>
	<b>Lower part:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Empty</u></li> </ul>
	<b>Neocaecal valve:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Is opened</u></li> <li>• <u>Ridge-like in appearance</u></li> </ul>

**N.B.:**

**Congenital abnormalities of the intestines**

1. **Microcolon** (under-development).
2. **Megacolon** (huge); massive dilatation of large bowel in infants and children (idiopathic or **Hirschsprung's disease** is due to congenital absence of the myenteric plexuses (D.D. Acquired megacolon in adults).
3. **Reduplication of lumen** (specially the ileum).
4. **Abnormal rotations** (transposition.).
5. **Atresia** (narrowing).
6. Absence of some parts as the second part of the duodenum.
7. Failure of the caecum to descend in the right iliac fossa.
8. **Diverticula** (herniation of mucosa and submucosa through defects in musculosa; often multiple and along the margins of taenia coli).
9. **Abnormal mesenteries.**
10. **Volvulus neonatorum.**
11. **Imperforate anus** (non-perforation of the membrane which separates the entodermal hindgut from the ectodermal anal dimple).

