

Megacolon

FACTS:

- **Megacolon is a complication found with a bowel disease, an infection of the colon or is present from birth.**
- **It is a life-threatening enlargement of the colon.**
- **The enlarged colon does not have the nerve cells that help the intestinal muscles to move the stool. The stool becomes trapped in the colon, filling it and causing it to expand to larger than normal.**
- **Symptoms include abdominal tenderness, abdominal pain and a swollen abdomen.**
- **Dehydration, fever, a rapid heart rate or constipation may also be present.**
- **In older children symptoms can include passing small watery stools, diarrhea and lack of appetite.**
- **The child should be taken to the doctor when symptoms are present.**
- **The doctor may recommend medications or a special diet to assist with keeping the bowels moving.**



**Children with megacolon
can be successfully treated
and adopted.**



**Special diets can help a
child with megacolon
live a happy life.**





TREATMENT:

- If megacolon appears with another condition, treatment of that condition is necessary to prevent further problems.
- Seeing a doctor is very important.
- Intravenous lines for fluid are usually administered to prevent dehydration and shock.
- Antibiotics may be given to prevent infection.
- Surgery may be required.



Surgery is often needed to treat megacolon.



My family loves me!