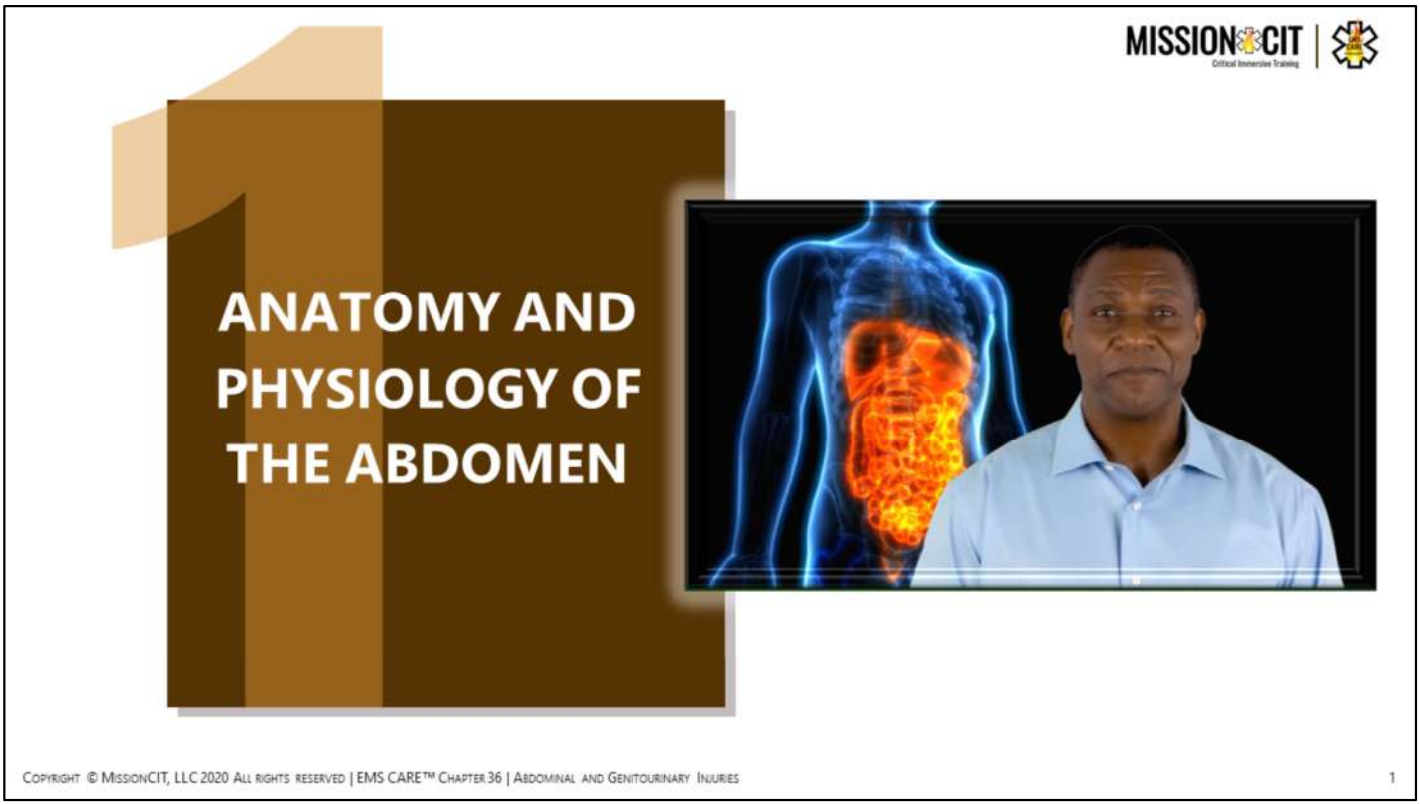
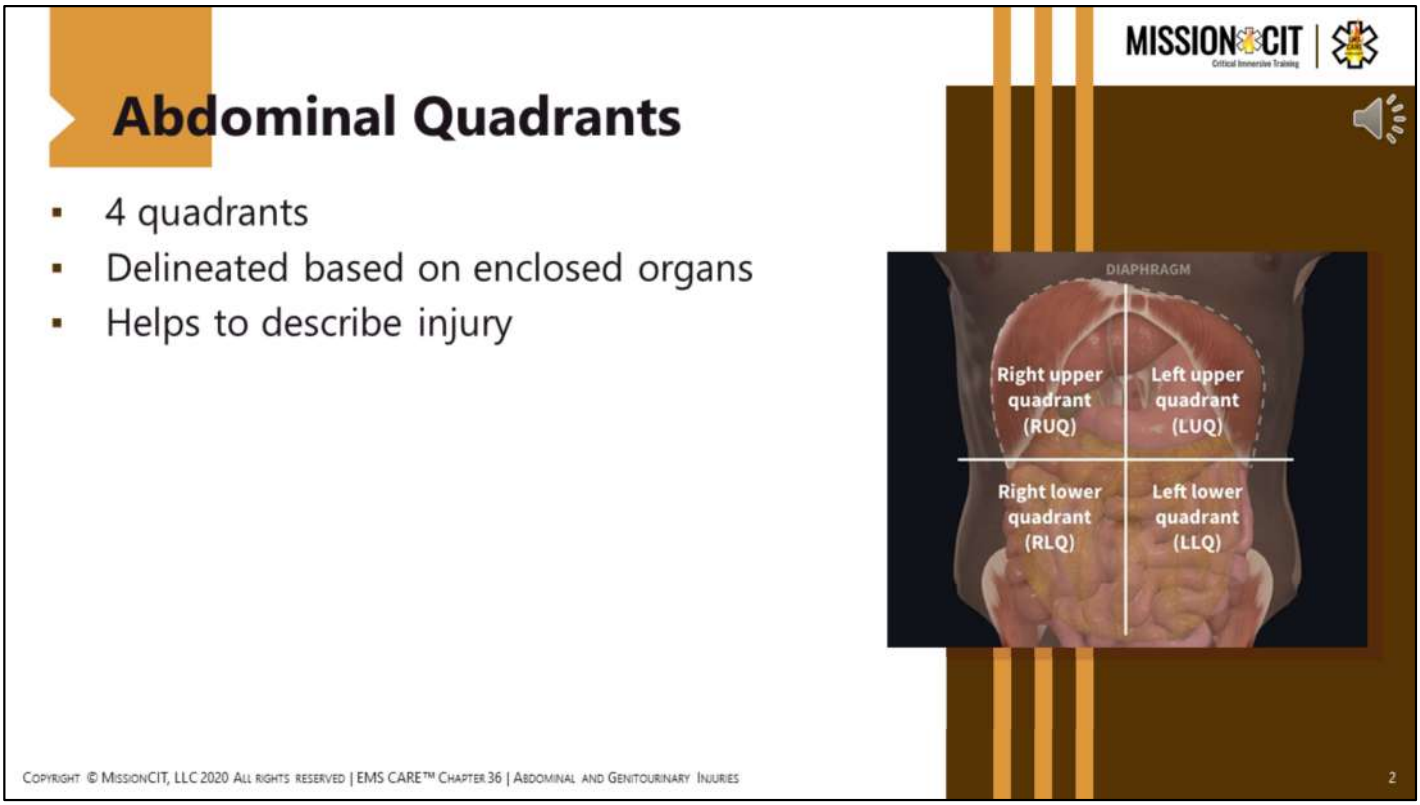


Hello everyone! Welcome to the first lesson where we talk about the anatomy and physiology of the abdomen.

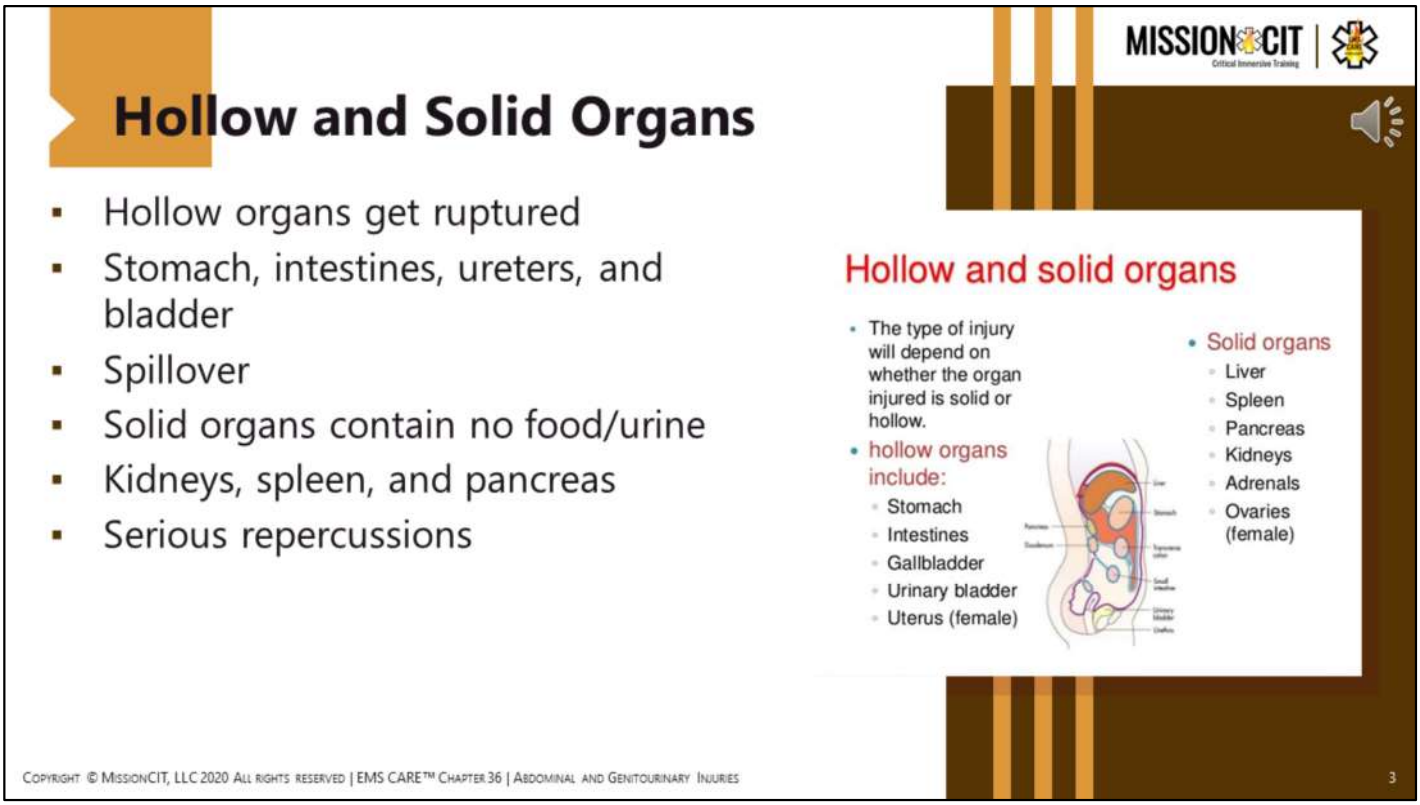
The abdomen is a major body cavity that extends from the diaphragm to the pelvis and contains organs such as the digestive, urinary, and genitourinary systems.

Sounds interesting, right? Hop on, as we explore the anatomy and physiology of the abdomen.



The abdomen is divided into four quadrants, and these are delineated based on the organs that are enclosed in it. Also, such a delineation of quadrants makes it easy to describe injury and provide treatment accordingly.

For example, the acronym RLQ means right lower quadrant. As you can see, this helps with identification and to explain the injury to the healthcare provider at the receiving hospital.



The abdomen contains many major organs, and from a medical standpoint, these organs are divided into hollow and solid organs.

The hollow organs are those that can get ruptured or lacerated easily, and this causes the contents to spill onto the peritoneal cavity. The hollow organs are the stomach, intestines, ureters, and bladder, and as you can see, these contain digested food, urine, or bile.

This spillover can cause intense inflammatory reaction and infection, such as in the case of peritonitis.

Another possibility is bleeding in the peritoneal cavity. The intestinal blood supply comes from mesentery and it connects the small intestine to the abdominal wall. When there's a rupture to this mesentery, it can cause blood to ooze into the peritoneal cavity.

The solid organs, on the other hand, are those that do not contain food, urine, or bile, and hence are solid. Examples are liver, kidneys, spleen, and pancreas. However, any hemorrhage in these organs can be severe because of the rich blood supply in these organs. Also, since it performs the chemical functions of the body such as energy production and blood cleansing, any damage here can have serious repercussions on the rest of the body as well.

Now that you have an idea of the anatomy, Missah will take you through the abdominal injuries and how you can care for patients suffering from these injuries.