

How to diagnose FUNCTIONAL ABDOMINAL PAIN using the Rome IV criteria



Functional abdominal pain is abdominal pain that is distinct from any underlying organic pathology.

The Rome IV criteria states that diagnosis must fulfill:



Episodic or continuous abdominal pain that lasts at least **4 days a month** for at least **2 months**



Pain that does **NOT** occur solely during **eating** or **menstruation**



Insufficient criteria for other functional **gastrointestinal disorders**



Abdominal pain that **CANNOT** be fully explained by **another medical condition**

To exclude any other gastrointestinal issues, stool and blood sample analysis can be useful diagnostic tools. Investigation into patient anxiety levels can also be beneficial for diagnosis as at least **50%** of children with functional abdominal pain have high levels of anxiety.

