

Ascites

Description:

Ascites is excess fluid in the space between the membranes lining the abdomen and abdominal organs.

Small amounts of fluid in the abdomen usually produce no symptoms, but massive amounts may cause abdominal expansion (distention) and discomfort. Pressure on the stomach from the swollen abdomen may lead to loss of appetite, and pressure on the lungs may lead to shortness of breath. In some people with ascites, the ankles swell with excess fluid (edema).