

# A 72-year-old patient with diarrhoea and abdominal pain

T.S. van der Werf\*, J.G. Zijlstra, R.F.E. Wolf

Intensive and Respiratory Care Unit, Departments of Internal Medicine and Radiology, Groningen University Medical Centre, PO Box 30001, 9700 RB Groningen, the Netherlands, e-mail: t.s.van.der.werf@int.azg.nl, \* corresponding author

## CASE REPORT

A 72-year-old diabetic male was referred by his general practitioner because of gradually increasing diarrhoea and abdominal pain over several days. On examination, he had mild acidotic breathing, and he appeared slightly dehydrated. The abdomen was distended and tender on palpation. Blood chemistry revealed slight derangement of his diabetes, and a neutrophil count of  $12 \times 10^9/l$ , liver enzymes were slightly elevated (ASAT 60, ALAT 70 U/l). During clinical observation, symptoms worsened, and a plain abdominal radiograph was performed (*figure 1*).

## WHAT IS YOUR DIAGNOSIS?

See page 175 for the answer to this photo quiz.



**Figure 1**  
*Plain abdominal (antero-posterior) radiograph in supine position*