

## Case scenario

### History

A 51-year-old woman presents to the emergency department with a painful right groin. She also has some lower abdominal distension and has vomited twice on the way to the hospital. She has passed some flatus but has not opened her bowels since yesterday. She is otherwise fit and well and is a non-smoker. She lives with her husband and four children.

### Examination

On examination she looks unwell. Her blood pressure is 106/70 mmHg and the pulse rate is 108/min. She is febrile with a temperature of 38.0°C. The abdomen is tender, particularly in the right iliac fossa, and there is lower abdominal distension. There is a small swelling in the right groin which is originating below and lateral to the pubic tubercle. The lump is irreducible and no cough impulse is present. Digital rectal examination is unremarkable and bowel sounds are hyperactive.

INVESTIGATIONS	
	<i>Normal</i>
Haemoglobin 14.1 g/dL	11.5–16.0 g/dL
White cell count 18.0 10 <sup>9</sup> /L	4.0–11.0 10 <sup>9</sup> /L
Platelets 361 10 <sup>9</sup> /L	150–400 10 <sup>9</sup> /L
Sodium 133 mmol/L	135–145 mmol/L
Potassium 3.3 mmol/L	3.5–5.0 mmol/L
Urea 6.1 mmol/L	2.5–6.7 mmol/L
Creatinine 63 mol/L	44–80 mol/L
Amylase 75 IU/L	0–99 IU/L
An X-ray of the abdomen is performed and is shown in Fig. 1.1.	



### Questions

- What is the cause of the X-ray appearances?
- What is the swelling?
- What are the anatomical boundaries?

- What is the initial treatment in this case?
- What is the differential diagnosis for a lump in the groin region?