Chapter 16 Gastrointestinal and Urologic Emergencies (Acute Abdomen)

Abdominal Pain
- ____________ complaint
- Cause is often difficult to identify; not necessary to determine cause
- Need to recognize ____________ -threatening problems and act swiftly

Abdominal Cavity
- Contains:
  - Gastrointestinal system
  - ____________ system
  - Urinary system
- Made up of solid and ____________ organs

Solid Organs
- ____________
  - Spleen
  - Pancreas
  - Ovaries
- Injury to a solid organ can cause ____________ and bleeding.

Hollow Organs
- Gallbladder
- ____________
  - Small intestine
  - Large intestine
  - Urinary ____________
- Breach into hollow organs causes contents to leak and ____________ abdominal cavity.

Abdominal Organs
- Hollow Organs
  - Solid Organs

Gastrointestinal System
- Mouth (__________ )
  - Esophagus
  - Stomach
  - ____________

Physiology of the Abdomen (1 of 2)
- Acute abdomen
  - ____________ onset of abdominal pain
- Peritoneum
  - Thin ____________ lining the entire abdomen
- Colic
  - Severe, intermittent ____________ pain
9. **Physiology of the Abdomen (2 of 2)**
   - __________ pain
     - Perceived pain at a distant point of the body caused by irritation of the visceral peritoneum
   - __________
     - Irritation of the peritoneum caused by illness or injury
     - Commonly cause by spilling of contents from hollow organs

10. **Abdominal Pain**
    - Two types of nerves supply peritoneum.
    - __________ peritoneum is supplied by same nerves that supply skin of abdomen.
      - Perceive pain, touch, pressure, heat, cold
    - __________ peritoneum is supplied by autonomic nervous system.
      - Produces referred pain

11. **Referred Pain**

12. **Causes of Acute Abdomen**
    - Nearly every kind of abdominal problem can cause an ____________ abdomen.
    - Substances lying in or ____________ to the abdominal cavity

13. **Ulcers**
    - Protective layer of mucus lining erodes, allowing acid to eat into organ.
    - May lead to gastric bleeding
    - Some heal without ____________ .
    - Pain in the upper ____________ or upper part of back

14. **Gallstones**
    - Gallbladder stores digestive juices and waste from ____________ .
    - Gallstones may form and block outlet.
    - Lead to ____________
    - Causes pain to right upper quadrant and referred pain to ____________ shoulder

15. **Pancreatitis**
    - Inflammation of the ____________
      - Caused by obstructing gallstone, alcohol abuse, or other diseases
    - Pain to upper abdomen (both quadrants) and back
    - Nausea, vomiting, abdominal distention
    - ____________ or hemorrhage may occur.

16. **Appendicitis**
    - Inflammation or infection in the appendix
    - Nausea, vomiting, ____________ , chills
• Direct pain to right ________________ quadrant with referred pain around navel
• ________________ tenderness

17 Gastrointestinal Hemorrhage
• ________________ within gastrointestinal tract
• May be acute or chronic
• Location of pain depends on ________________

18 Esophagitis
• ________________ of esophagus becomes inflamed by infection or acids from the stomach.
• Pain in swallowing, heartburn, nausea, vomiting, sores in mouth
• Common complaint of something “stuck in throat”
• ________________ can occur

19 Esophageal Varices
• ________________ network in esophagus leaks.
• Fatigue, weight loss, jaundice, anorexia
• ________________ is a main cause
• Major rupture can cause severe blood loss and shock

20 Mallory-Weiss Syndrome
• Junction between esophagus and ________________ tears causing severe bleeding.
• ________________ is principal symptom.
• Extent of blood loss can range from minor to major

21 Gastroenteritis
• Infection from ________________ or viral organisms in contaminated food or water
• Diarrhea is principal symptoms
• Normally runs it course in _________ to _________ days
• Can lead to dehydration and ________________

22 Diverticulitis
• ________________ matter becomes caught in colon walls, causing inflammation and infection.
• Fever, malaise, body aches, chills
• Pain to ________________ lower quadrant

23 Hemorrhoids
• Created by swelling and inflammation of blood vessels surrounding ________________
• Bright red blood during ________________

24 Urinary System
• Kidneys can be affected by ________________ that form from materials normally passed in the urine.
Kidney stones normally present as ______________ pain on side of stone.

Kidney infections can cause severe pain.

Patients are often quite ill, with a high fever.

Bladder infection (_____________) more common, especially in women.

Patients usually have lower abdominal pain.

**Uterus and Ovaries**

- Always consider a gynecologic problem with ______________ having abdominal pain.
- Causes of pain
  - ______________ cycle
  - Pelvic inflammatory disease
  - Ectopic pregnancy

**Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)**

- Aorta lies immediately behind ______________.
- Weak areas can result in abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA).
- AAA is difficult to detect.
- Use extreme caution when assessing or detecting.
- Can cause massive bleeding and instant ______________
- Common presents as ______________ pain

**Pneumonia**

- May cause ______________ and abdominal pain
- Since the lungs lie in an adjacent body cavity, the intense inflammatory response can reflect in the abdomen
- Predominant in lower ______________ pneumonia

**Signs and Symptoms of Acute Abdomen (1 of 3)**

- ______________
  - Paralysis of muscular contractions in the intestine
  - Causes abdominal ______________
  - Nothing can pass normally out of stomach or bowel.
  - Stomach can only empty through ______________.
  - Almost always associated with nausea and vomiting

**Signs and Symptoms of Acute Abdomen (2 of 3)**

- Abdominal ______________ and/or tenderness
- Quiet patient guarding the abdomen (shock)
- Rapid and shallow breathing
- ______________ (distant) pain
- ______________, nausea, vomiting

**Signs and Symptoms of Acute Abdomen (3 of 3)**
• Tense, often _________________ abdomen
• Sudden constipation or bloody diarrhea
• ________________________________
• Hypotension
• Fever
• ________________________________ tenderness

31 Examining the Abdomen
• Explain what you are about to do.
• Position the patient supine with legs drawn up and knees flexed.
• ________________________________ the patient.
• Gently ________________________________ the abdomen (all 4 quadrants).
• Determine if the patient can relax the abdominal wall on command.
• Determine if abdomen is ________________________________ when palpated.

32 Emergency Medical Care  (1 of 3)
• Take steps to provide comfort and lessen effects of ________________________________ ; reassure patient.
• Position patients who are vomiting to maintain airway.
• Be sure to use BSI.
• Clean ambulance and ________________________________ once patient is delivered.

33 Emergency Medical Care  (2 of 3)
• Do not delay ________________________________ .
• Do not attempt to diagnose.
• Clear and maintain the airway.
• Anticipate ________________________________ .
• Administer oxygen.
• Give nothing by ________________________________ .

34 Emergency Medical Care  (3 of 3)
• ________________________________ all pertinent information.
• Anticipate the development of hypovolemic shock.
• Make the patient ________________________________ .
• Monitor vitals signs.

35 Geriatric Needs
• Decreased ________________________________ perception
• May not have fever with infection
• May delay seeking care because pain is ________________________________
• Assess carefully.

36 Kidney Dialysis (1 of 2)
• Only definitive treatment for chronic kidney ________________________________
  • Dialysis filters blood, cleans it of ________________________________ , and returns it to body.
- If patient misses dialysis treatment, pulmonary edema can occur.
- Some services transport patients to and from dialysis centers.

37 Kidney Dialysis (2 of 2)
- Dialysis machine functions much like normal kidneys.
- Adverse effects of dialysis:
  - _________________________
  - Muscle cramps
  - Nausea and vomiting
  - Hemorrhage from access site
  - Infection at _________________________ site

38 Special Precautions for Dialysis Patients (1 of 2)
- Most are _________________________; beware of low blood sugar
- Most have a shunt (_______________________) which is an artificial connection (graft) between a vein and artery that is usually located in the forearm upper arm

39 Special Precautions for Dialysis Patients (2 of 2)
- Avoid taking a BP on arm with fistula to avoid increased in _________________________
- Transport to a facility with dialysis capabilities
- Monitor blood _________________________