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.

6 Abdominal Organs
   Hollow Organs          Solid Organs

7 Gastrointestinal System
   1 • Mouth (_______________________)
      • Esophagus
      • Stomach
      • ________________________
   2 • Gall Bladder
      • Small Intestine
      • Large Intestine (Colon)
      • ________________________

8 Physiology of the Abdomen (1 of 2)
• Acute abdomen
  • ________________________ onset of abdominal pain
• Peritoneum
  • Thin ________________________ lining the entire abdomen
• Colic
  • Severe, intermittent ________________________ pain
  • Normal complaint in acute abdomen

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
Abdominal Pain

- Two types of nerves supply peritoneum.
- ________________________ peritoneum is supplied by the same nerves that supply skin of abdomen.
  - Perceive pain, touch, pressure, heat, cold
- ________________________ peritoneum is supplied by the autonomic nervous system.
  - Produces referred pain

Referred Pain

Causes of Acute Abdomen

- Nearly every kind of abdominal problem can cause an ________________ abdomen.
- Substances lying in or ________________________ to the abdominal cavity

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

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

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
Mallory-Weiss Syndrome

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

Gastroenteritis

- Infection from ________________________ or viral organisms in contaminated food or water
- Diarrhea is principal symptom.
- Normally runs its course in __________ to __________ days
- Can lead to dehydration and ________________

Diverticulitis

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

Hemorrhoids

- Created by swelling and inflammation of blood vessels surrounding ________________
- Bright red blood during ________________

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.

25 Uterus and Ovaries
● Always consider a gynecologic problem with ________________________ having abdominal pain.
● Causes of pain
  - ________________________ cycle
  - Pelvic inflammatory disease
  - Ectopic pregnancy

26 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

27 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

28 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

29 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

30 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.
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.

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 _______________________.

Emergency Medical Care (3 of 3)
- ______________________ all pertinent information.
- Anticipate the development of hypovolemic shock.
- Make the patient _______________________.
- Monitor vitals signs.

Geriatric Needs
- Decreased _______________________ perception
- May not have fever with infection
- May delay seeking care because pain is _______________________
- Assess carefully.

Kidney Dialysis (1 of 2)
- Only definitive treatment for chronic kidney _______________________ - Dialysis filters blood, cleans it of
Dialysis machine functions much like normal kidneys.

- Adverse effects of dialysis:
  - _______________________
  - Muscle cramps
  - Nausea and vomiting
  - Hemorrhage from access site
  - Infection at _________________________ site

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

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 _________________________