

Acute Abdomen

Acute Abdomen: Any animal that presents to the hospital with acute abdominal pain, or unstable condition due to abdominal disease

Causes: An endless list ranging from pancreatitis, prostatitis, pyelonephritis, trauma, sepsis, and neoplasia to GI obstruction/perforation/torsion, and infarctions

Primary Survey

- Airway
- Breathing
- Circulation
- Disability/Dysfunction

Perfusion Parameters

- MM color
- CRT
- Extremity temperature
- Mucous
- HR
- Pulse quality

Treat for Shock First

- Provide supplemental oxygen
- Place IVC
- Fluids
 - Crystalloids
 - Colloids

Treat Abdominal Pain

- Distension
- Traction
- Ischemia
- Inflammation

What are our options for analgesia in the ER?

- Opioids
 - Full mu agonist (morphine, hydromorphone etc.)
 - Buprenorphine

- Butorphanol
- Alpha-2 Agonists
 - Dexmedetomidine
- NSAIDS

Indications for Emergency Surgery

- Organ displacement, torsion or obstruction
- Free peritoneal air
- Intrabdominal abscess/pyometra
- Septic peritonitis
- Bile peritonitis
- Uncontrollable abdominal pain
- Penetrating abdominal injury
 - Bite wound
 - Gun shot
 - Impaled

What classifies as a hemoabdomen?

- Free blood in the abdomen that does not clot
- PCV of abdominal fluid greater than peripheral blood

Causes

- Trauma
- Coagulopathy
- Ruptured viscera
- Torn blood vessel

When is an acute abdomen a surgical emergency?

- Primary disease
 - Bleeding liver or spleen mass
- Unable to stabilize medically
 - Fluid therapy
 - Blood transfusions

Next steps

- Bloodwork
 - PCV/TP
 - Parallel drop indicated hemorrhage

- Splenic contraction
- Hypoglycemia
 - Aggressive investigation for sepsis
- Azotemia and hyperkalemia
 - Consider uroabdomen
- Abdominal Radiographs
 - GDV
 - Small intestinal obstruction
 - Free peritoneal air
 - Free abdominal fluid
 - Loss of serosal detail
 - Less sensitive than POC ultrasound
- Abdominal ultrasound
- Fluid analysis

Abdominal Fluid Analysis	Result	Concluison
Creatinine	2 X > Serum	Uroabdomen
Potassium	1.4 X > Serum	Uroabdomen
Bilirubin	2 X > Serum	Bile peritonitis
Glucose	20 mg/dL < Blood	Consistent with septic peritonitis
Lactate	2 mmol/L > Blood	Consistent with septic peritonitis