

Small Group Teaching - Undifferentiated Abdominal Pain

Question 1

A 72 year old man with HT, IHD, and CCF was admitted to SSU overnight with a working diagnosis of “gastroenteritis” On review you discover that he has acute generalised abdominal pain and vomiting. Observations: Afebrile, HR 100, BP 110/80, RR 22, Sats 92% RA

- a. List your differentials
- b. Outline initial assessment and management
- c. Investigations
 - a. Bloods?
 - b. Imaging?
- d. Disposition?
- e. The surgical registrar reviews the patient and documents “Not an acute surgical problem”. How do you proceed?

Question 2

A 7 year old girl presents with 24 hours of lower abdominal pain, and nausea.

- a. Outline your assessment and dDx
- b. Role of investigations?
- c. Her pain settles with panadol, her abdomen is now lax and you decide to discharge her
 - a. What discharge criteria do you use?
 - b. What instructions do you give her carers?
- d. She returns 2 days later with an acute abdomen and generalised peritonitis. Her mother is angry and frustrated. Outline your approach to the patient and mother.

ED Abdominal pain management for patients >65 on Prompt

<http://prompt/Search/download.aspx?filename=4411923\1824227\5474241.pdf>

Abdominal pain in Elderly persons : <http://emedicine.medscape.com/article/776663-overview>

Diagnosis of Acute abdominal pain in older patients:

<http://www.aafp.org/afp/2006/1101/p1537.html>

RCH: http://www.rch.org.au/clinicalguide/guideline_index/Abdominal_pain/

