

ABDOMINAL PAIN

Elderly People Die from Abdominal Pain

Differential Diagnosis

Myocardial Ischemia
Hepatitis
Biliary Colic
Cholecystitis
Pancreatitis
Peptic Ulcer Disease
Appendicitis
Diverticulitis
Hernia
Pyelonephritis
Renal Colic
Urinary Tract Infection
Pelvic Inflammatory Disease
Prostatitis
Tubo-Ovarian Abscess
Ovarian/Testicular Torsion
Ectopic Pregnancy
Bowel Obstruction
Mesenteric Ischemia
Perforated Viscus
Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm
Diabetic Ketoacidosis

Approach to Abdominal Pain

1) Risk Stratify

Be VERY careful with elderly, immunocompromised, and diabetic patients.

2) Consider Genitourinary Causes

Bonus points if you mention the need to do a GU exam during your presentation to the attending!

3) Order Labs (The Core 8)

CBC and Electrolytes

EKG and Troponin

Liver Function Tests and Lipase

Urinalysis and Urine Pregnancy

**Lactic Acid, Blood Cultures, and Urine Cultures as Necessary

4) Order Imaging

CT scan is the gold standard with 3 ultrasound exceptions

Hepatobiliary Ultrasound - Test of choice for cholecystitis and biliary colic

Genitourinary Ultrasound - Test of choice for torsion, masses, and many cases of renal colic

Aorta Ultrasound - Typically performed at bedside to rule out AAA

5) Disposition

Within 12-24 hours (in ED if necessary)