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)