



PEDIATRIC ABDOMINAL EMERGENCIES

Effective: January 1, 2025
Replaces: April, 27, 2017

1. Patient Care Goals

- 1.1. Identify life-threatening causes of abdominal pain
 - 1.1.1. **Appendicitis**
 - 1.1.1.1. Focal right lower quadrant tenderness, possibly with rebound tenderness and guarding
 - 1.1.1.2. Right lower quadrant tenderness noted during palpation of left lower quadrant (Rovsing's Sign)
 - 1.1.1.3. Peri-umbilical or diffuse abdominal tenderness with palpation of abdomen/pelvis
 - 1.1.1.4. Fever
 - 1.1.1.5. Nausea, vomiting
 - 1.1.1.6. Lack of appetite
 - 1.1.2. **Pyelonephritis**
 - 1.1.2.1. Fever
 - 1.1.2.2. Nausea, vomiting
 - 1.1.2.3. Urinary frequency/urgency
 - 1.1.2.4. Dysuria
 - 1.1.2.5. Hematuria
 - 1.1.2.6. Back/flank pain
 - 1.1.2.7. Costovertebral angle tenderness to percussion
- 1.2. Improve patient comfort by providing appropriate treatment for pain, vomiting and shock

2. BLS Treatment

- 2.1. Routine Medical Care – Pediatric (**700-S05**)
 - 2.1.1. **Oxygen** – titrate as appropriate
- 2.2. Place patient in recovery position or position of comfort
- 2.3. Treat associated signs and symptoms of shock as appropriate (**700-P10**)

3. ALS Treatment

- 3.1. **Vascular Access (IV)**, if appropriate, TKO
 - 3.1.1. Consider **20ml/kg Fluid bolus**, max of 250ml, if patient appears dehydrated
- 3.2. If patient is four (4) years or older, and presents with nausea and/or vomiting, or appears dehydrated;
 - 3.2.1. **Ondansetron (Zofran)**
 - 3.2.1.1. **15-30kg: 4mg ODT or IV (if ODT is not tolerated)** single dose
 - 3.2.1.2. **30kg or greater: 4mg ODT or IV (if ODT is not tolerated)** may repeat once, total max dose 8mg

4. Pertinent Assessment Findings

- 4.1. Rebound tenderness
- 4.2. Guarding
- 4.3. Abdominal distention
- 4.4. Abdominal tympany to percussion



- 4.5. Tenderness focal to a specific abdominal quadrant
- 4.6. Presence of “pulsatile” abdominal mass
- 4.7. Absence of or significant inequality of femoral or distal arterial pulses in lower extremities
- 4.8. Hyper or hypothermia
- 4.9. Rectal bleeding, hematemesis, vaginal bleeding
- 4.10. Jaundice

5. Key Documentation Elements

- 5.1. Assessment of abdomen to include findings on palpation/percussion including presence or absence of masses and presence/nature of pain
- 5.2. Treatment and response to treatment, including repeat vital signs/pain scale