

infection or clinical signs of bleeding. However, hemorrhage into the adrenal gland may be evident as a palpable retroperitoneal mass.

Box 28-10

Clinical Manifestations of Acute Adrenocortical Insufficiency

Early Symptoms

Increased irritability

Headache

Diffuse abdominal pain

Weakness

Nausea and vomiting

Diarrhea

Generalized Hemorrhagic Manifestations (Waterhouse-Friderichsen Syndrome)

Fever (increases as condition worsens)

Central nervous system (CNS) signs:

- Nuchal rigidity
- Seizures
- Stupor
- Coma

Shocklike State