



## General Medical

### Abdominal Pain

#### Aliases

None noted

#### Patient Care Goals

1. Improve patient comfort
2. Identify life-threatening causes of abdominal pain

#### Patient Presentation

##### Inclusion Criteria

Abdominal pain or discomfort related to a non-traumatic cause

##### Exclusion Criteria

1. Abdominal pain due to trauma [See [General Trauma Management Guideline](#)]
2. Abdominal pain due to or related to pregnancy [See [OB/GYN Section](#)]

#### Patient Management

##### Assessment

1. Perform airway assessment and management per the [Airway Management Guideline](#)
2. Obtain vital signs including pulse, blood pressure, respiratory rate, neurologic status assessment
3. Obtain blood glucose if hyperglycemia is suspected per [Hyperglycemia Guideline](#)
4. Provide evaluation and management of pain per the [Pain Management Guideline](#)
5. Obtain vascular access as necessary to provide analgesia and/or fluid resuscitation
6. Assess for life-threatening causes of abdominal pain, which may include:
  - a. Signs and symptoms of ischemic, necrotic, or perforated bowel
    - i. Severe tenderness
    - ii. Abdominal pain with motion or palpation of the abdomen
    - iii. Fever
    - iv. Bloody stool
    - v. Nausea and vomiting
    - vi. Absence of passage of stool or gas
    - vii. Abdominal distention, with tympany to percussion
  - b. Signs and symptoms of dissecting or ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA)
    - i. Unequal femoral or distal lower extremity pulses
    - ii. "Pulsatile" abdominal mass
    - iii. Associated back pain and/or chest pain
    - iv. Known history of abdominal aortic aneurysm
  - c. Signs and symptoms of ruptured ectopic pregnancy
    - i. Vaginal bleeding
    - ii. Recently diagnosed pregnancy
    - iii. Recent missed period/menstrual cycle in women of childbearing age