

Care of Medical and Surgical Patients In the Clinical Setting

The Gastrointestinal System

Contact Hours: 6.75 CE



Introduction

Gastrointestinal disorders are commonly seen in the clinical setting. While common, the many functions of the gastrointestinal system and the abnormalities which may exist, are difficult for practicing nurses. Assessment is covered using a physiologic approach in this session and includes a review of laboratory values and abnormalities seen in various diseases. Interventions are reviewed including pharmacologic treatment, outcome monitoring, and nursing implications with drug therapy. The clinical manifestations and treatment of the following will be covered:

- Irritable bowel syndrome
- Appendicitis
- Viral hepatitis
- Acute cholecystitis
- Pancreatitis
- Bowel ischemia
- Intestinal obstruction
- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Diverticulitis
- Acute gastroenteritis
- Hepatic failure
- Colorectal cancer
- Gastroesophageal reflux disease
- Gastrointestinal bleeds
- Diarrhea
- Peptic ulcer disease
- Peritonitis

Objectives

1. Discuss the anatomy and physiology of the gastrointestinal system.
2. Verbalize an understanding of the various assessment techniques utilized in patients with gastrointestinal abnormalities.
3. Differentiate between the pharmacologic action and uses of the various classifications of medications used to treat patients with gastrointestinal disorders.
4. Discuss the physiologic and treatment differences between ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease.

5. Differentiate between select alterations in gastrointestinal function in terms of pathophysiology, signs and symptoms, management, and patient education. Alterations include appendicitis, irritable bowel syndrome, viral hepatitis, and cholecystitis.
6. Identify the pathophysiology, presentation, and management of pancreatitis.
7. Discuss alterations in gastrointestinal function in terms of etiology, pathophysiology, clinical manifestations, management, and patient education. Alterations include bowel ischemia, intestinal obstruction, diverticulitis, gastroenteritis, and hepatic failure.
8. Identify the pathophysiology, presentation, management and patient education in colorectal cancer, gastroesophageal reflux disease, GI bleed, clostridium difficile, peptic ulcer disease, and peritonitis.

Recent seminar participants had this to say about “The Gastrointestinal System”:



“Instructor is just great. Very good program.”

“Pictures and illustrations are great in this seminar to help understand the diseases.”

“This was an especially valuable session since these are common diseases seen in our patients. The assessment techniques specific to individual conditions was very helpful.”

“Use of audiovisuals was of great importance in this system and very well done. Great handout with a wealth of information.”



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