

**EMT**

Chapter 16 Review

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ lies in the retroperitoneal space.

A. liver

B. pancreas

C. stomach

D. small intestine

**Answer: B**

**Rationale:** The pancreas, kidneys, and ovaries lie in the retroperitoneal space, which is behind the peritoneum, and are often the cause of acute abdominal pain. The liver, stomach, and small intestine are all found within the true (anterior) abdomen.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ lies in the retroperitoneal space.

A. liver

**Rationale:** The liver is found in anterior abdomen.

B. pancreas

**Rationale:** Correct answer

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ lies in the retroperitoneal space.

C. stomach

**Rationale:** The stomach is found in anterior abdomen.

D. small intestine

**Rationale:** The small intestine is found in anterior abdomen.

2. Which of the following is NOT a solid organ?

A. Liver

B. Kidney

C. Spleen

D. Gallbladder

**Answer: D**

**Rationale:** The gallbladder is a hollow organ that concentrates and stores bile, which is produced by the liver. Other hollow organs include the stomach and intestines. The liver, spleen, and kidney are all solid organs.

2. Which of the following is NOT a solid organ?

A. Liver

**Rationale:** The liver is a solid organ.

B. Kidney

**Rationale:** The kidney is a solid organ.

C. Spleen

**Rationale:** The spleen is a solid organ.

D. Gallbladder

**Rationale:** Correct answer



3. A 34-year-old woman with a recent history of pelvic inflammatory disease presents with acute severe abdominal pain. Her abdomen is distended and diffusely tender to palpation. Based on your findings thus far, you should suspect:
- A. peritonitis.
  - B. pancreatitis.
  - C. appendicitis.
  - D. cholecystitis.

## **Answer: A**

**Rationale:** Peritonitis—an inflammation of the thin membrane that lines the abdominal cavity—typically presents with acute abdominal pain. Causes of peritonitis include infection and blunt or penetrating abdominal trauma. The pain caused by peritonitis is typically diffuse (widespread), whereas appendicitis, pancreatitis, and cholecystitis (inflammation of the gallbladder) typically present with pain that is localized to a particular area.

3. A 34-year-old woman with a recent history of pelvic inflammatory disease presents with acute severe abdominal pain. Her abdomen is distended and diffusely tender to palpation. Based on your findings thus far, you should suspect:

A. peritonitis.

**Rationale:** Correct answer

B. pancreatitis.

**Rationale:** Pancreatitis is usually a localized pain (in one specific area).

3. A 34-year-old woman with a recent history of pelvic inflammatory disease presents with acute severe abdominal pain. Her abdomen is distended and diffusely tender to palpation. Based on your findings thus far, you should suspect:

C. appendicitis.

**Rationale:** Appendicitis is usually a localized pain (in one specific area).

D. cholecystitis.

**Rationale:** Cholecystitis is usually a localized pain (in one specific area).

4. MOST patients with an acute abdomen present with:
- A. dyspnea.
  - B. diarrhea.
  - C. hypotension.
  - D. tachycardia.

**Answer: D**

**Rationale:** Tachycardia (heart rate  $> 100$  beats/min) is commonly seen in patients with an acute abdomen; it is usually the result of severe pain. Hypotension is not seen in all patients with an acute abdomen; if the patient is hypotensive, you should suspect internal bleeding or a severe infection (sepsis). Many patients with an acute abdomen have increased respirations (tachypnea); however, dyspnea (a feeling of shortness of breath) is not common.

4. MOST patients with an acute abdomen present with:

A. dyspnea.

**Rationale:** Some patients may have increased respirations, but they typically do not have difficulty breathing.

B. diarrhea.

**Rationale:** Diarrhea may be a symptom of some abdominal problems but not in most patients.

4. MOST patients with an acute abdomen present with:

C. hypotension.

**Rationale:** Hypotension is not seen in most patients and should be suspected when shock is present.

D. tachycardia.

**Rationale:** Correct answer



5. Which of the following signs or symptoms would you be the LEAST likely to find in a patient with an acute abdomen?

- A. Rapid, shallow breathing
- B. Soft, nondistended abdomen
- C. Tachycardia and restlessness
- D. Constipation or diarrhea

**Answer: B**

**Rationale:** Signs and symptoms of an acute abdomen include, but are not limited to, rapid and shallow breathing, a tense and distended abdomen, tachycardia, restlessness, and constipation or diarrhea.

5. Which of the following signs or symptoms would you be the LEAST likely to find in a patient with an acute abdomen?

A. Rapid, shallow breathing

**Rationale:** This is a common sign of an acute abdomen.

B. Soft, nondistended abdomen

**Rationale:** Correct answer

5. Which of the following signs or symptoms would you be the LEAST likely to find in a patient with an acute abdomen?

C. Tachycardia and restlessness

**Rationale:** These are common signs of an acute abdomen.

D. Constipation or diarrhea

**Rationale:** These are common signs of an acute abdomen.

6. A condition in which a person experiences a loss of appetite is called:

A. ileus.

B. colic.

C. emesis.

D. anorexia.

**Answer: D**

**Rationale:** Anorexia is defined as a loss of appetite. It is a nonspecific symptom but is often associated with gastrointestinal diseases and abdominal pain.

6. A condition in which a person experiences a loss of appetite is called:

A. ileus.

**Rationale:** This is the paralysis of the muscular contractions that normally propel material through the intestine.

B. colic.

**Rationale:** This is a severe, intermittent cramping pain.

6. A condition in which a person experiences a loss of appetite is called:

C. emesis.

**Rationale:** This is also know as vomiting.

D. anorexia.

**Rationale:** Correct answer



7. The medical term for inflammation of the urinary bladder is:

A. cystitis.

B. nephritis.

C. cholecystitis.

D. diverticulitis.

**Answer: A**

**Rationale:** Cystitis is the medical term for inflammation of the urinary bladder. Nephritis is inflammation of the kidney. Inflammation of the gallbladder is called cholecystitis.

Diverticulitis is a condition in which small pouches in the colon (large intestine) become inflamed.

7. The medical term for inflammation of the urinary bladder is:

A. cystitis.

**Rationale:** Correct answer

B. nephritis.

**Rationale:** Nephritis is the inflammation of the kidney.

7. The medical term for inflammation of the urinary bladder is:

C. cholecystitis.

**Rationale:** Cholecystitis is the inflammation of the gallbladder.

D. diverticulitis.

**Rationale:** Diverticulitis is the inflammation of part of the large intestine.

8. If a hernia is incarcerated and the contents are so greatly compressed that circulation is compromised, the hernia is said to be:
- A. reduced.
  - B. ruptured.
  - C. strangulated.
  - D. hypoxemic.

**Answer: C**

**Rationale:** A strangulated hernia occurs when a hernia is incarcerated and compressed by the surrounding tissues. It is a serious medical emergency and requires immediate surgery to repair the hernia, remove dead tissue, and return oxygen to the tissues.

8. If a hernia is incarcerated and the contents are so greatly compressed that circulation is compromised, the hernia is said to be:

A. reduced.

**Rationale:** This is a mass or lump that will disappear back into the body cavity in which it belongs.

B. ruptured.

**Rationale:** This is a mass or lump that bursts from internal pressure.

8. If a hernia is incarcerated and the contents are so greatly compressed that circulation is compromised, the hernia is said to be:

C. strangulated.

**Rationale:** Correct answer

D. hypoxemic.

**Rationale:** This is a decrease in arterial oxygen levels.



9. A 70-year-old man presents with an acute onset of severe, tearing abdominal pain that radiates to his back. His BP is 88/66 mm Hg, pulse rate is 120 beats/min, and respirations are 26 breaths/min. Treatment for this patient should include:
- A. rapid transport to the hospital.
  - B. firm palpation of the abdomen.
  - C. placing him in a sitting position.
  - D. oxygen at 4 L/min via nasal cannula.

**Answer: A**

**Rationale:** Severe, tearing abdominal pain that radiates to the back is typical of an abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA); it commonly occurs in older patients—especially those with hypertension. Treatment includes high-flow oxygen and rapid transport. If the patient has signs of shock, place him or her supine and elevate the legs 6" to 12". Do not vigorously palpate the patient's abdomen; doing so may cause the aneurysm to rupture.

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A. rapid transport to the hospital.

**Rationale:** Correct answer

B. firm palpation of the abdomen.

**Rationale:** A firm or vigorous palpation is contraindicated in patients with severe and sudden-onset abdominal pain.

9. A 70-year-old man presents with an acute onset of severe, tearing abdominal pain that radiates to his back. His BP is 88/66 mm Hg, pulse rate is 120 beats/min, and respirations are 26 breaths/min. Treatment for this patient should include:

C. placing him in a sitting position.

**Rationale:** Hypotension is treated by elevating the patient's legs into the shock position.

D. oxygen at 4 L/min via nasal cannula.

**Rationale:** High-flow oxygen is indicated in the treatment of shock.

10. In which position do most patients with acute abdominal pain prefer to be transported?

A. Sitting with head elevated 45°

B. Supine with their legs elevated 12"

C. On their side with their knees flexed

D. Fowler's position with their legs straight

**Answer: C**

**Rationale:** Most patients with acute abdominal pain prefer to lie on their side with their knees flexed (and usually drawn up into their abdomen). This position takes pressure off the abdominal muscles and may afford them pain relief.

10. In which position do most patients with acute abdominal pain prefer to be transported?

A. Sitting with head elevated 45°

**Rationale:** This is also known as the semi-Fowler's position.

B. Supine with their legs elevated 12"

**Rationale:** This is usually done in patients with hypotension.

10. In which position do most patients with acute abdominal pain prefer to be transported?

C. On their side with their knees flexed

**Rationale:** Correct answer

D. Fowler's position with their legs straight

**Rationale:** This is when the patient is sitting straight up.