

Abdominal Pain

Effective: 11/01/2022

Supersedes:
N/A**REFERENCED PROCEDURES:** None**GOALS FOR PATIENT CARE:**

- Identify life-threatening causes of abdominal pain
- Improve patient comfort

MEDICATIONS:

MEDICATION	ADULT	PEDIATRIC (Refer to Handtevy)
<u>ONDANSETRON</u>	4 mg IV/IO slow over 30 seconds. Repeat x1 4 mg ODT SL, may repeat x1	0.1 mg/kg IV slow repeat x1 (max 4mg) - Contraindicated under 2 years
<u>FENTANYL</u>	25-100mcg IV/IO Slow Push, IM/IN (Titrate to effect, may repeat 5-10 min)	1 mcg/kg, up to 100mcg. IV/IO Slow Push, IM/IN (Titrate to effect, may repeat 5-10 min)
	TOTAL MAX DOSE: 400mcg	TOTAL MAX DOSE: 400mcg
<u>NORMAL SALINE</u>	500mL, IV/IO for dehydration, hemodynamic instability	20 ml/kg, IV/IO for dehydration, hemodynamic instability

Abdominal pain is the most common complaint presenting in Emergency Departments across the US. It can have many etiologies –it can be something benign (e.g. constipation) requiring over the counter medications, something requiring oral prescription medications (e.g. diverticulitis), or something life-threatening (e.g. ACS or leaking AAA). Based upon vitals and clinical presentation, one should create a reasonable differential diagnosis and treat accordingly.

PROCEDURES/INTERVENTIONS:

- Assess abdomen and consider differential diagnosis
- Consider ECG in patients with upper abdominal pain
- Determine last menstrual period in fertile females
- Establish IV access/IO as clinically indicated
- If signs/symptoms indicate dehydration or hemodynamic instability, administer up to 500mL of NS
- Administer Ondansetron for nausea
- Administer fentanyl for pain as clinically indicated (See Pain Management Protocol)

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CONSIDERATIONS:

Considerations for crews on scene prior to ambulance arrival:

- Always determine possibility of pregnancy in female of childbearing age
- Monitor V/S closely for changes
- Obtain history of abdominal surgeries
- Gall bladder, bowel, appendix, uterus/ovaries, etc.
- Determine bowel/bladder symptoms
- Recent bowel movements
- Pain, blood, odor, color, diarrhea, constipation, etc.
- Determine if bleeding in urine, stool, emesis: color, clotting, amount
- Physical exam: determine guarding, rigidity, distention, bruising, tenderness, etc.