

Unit 3: Abdominal Assessment

Objectives

- Describe the physiological function of the normal abdominal anatomic organs
- Discuss the system-specific history for the abdomen
- Identify and describe common abnormalities found in the physical assessment of the abdomen and discuss the pathophysiology of these problems
- Demonstrate and document the physical assessment for the abdomen
- Identify appropriate nursing interventions based on assessment of the abdomen
- Describe changes in the physical assessment findings for different age groups

Physical Examination

- Inspect the abdomen
 - Skin color changes, scars, birthmarks, striae, moles, freckles, etc.
- Inspect abdominal muscles as patient raises head
- Auscultate with stethoscope
 - Bowel sounds (use _____); bruits over aortic, renal, iliac, femoral arteries (use _____)
- Percuss the abdomen
 - _____ in all four quadrants (or nine regions); _____; splenic dullness in left midaxillary line; _____
- Palpate

****NOTE CHANGE IN THE ORDER OF ASSESSMENT****

General History

- Medications
- ETCH
- _____
 - Drugs, alcohol, tobacco: how often, how many at a time, when did you start, WHAT!!!!
- Travel and infectious diseases
 - If they have been exposed to pathogens in water in other countries; intractable diarrhea or vomit
- Water supply
- Hygienic practices

History of Present Illness

- Abdominal pain
- _____