DEFINITIONS

- Acute Abdomen - sudden abdominal pain.
- Peritoneum - sac that holds the GI organs.
- Peritonitis - inflammation of abdominal sac.
- Referred pain - travels from the origin of problem.
- Rebound tenderness - spillage into sac. Hurts most when you release pressure.
- Fetal Position - curled up into ball to relax abdominal muscles.

Solid Organs

- Solid organs bleed.
- Solid organs filter.
- Liver, spleen, kidneys, pancreas

Hollow Organs

- Hollow organs spill.
- Hollow organs hold things.
- Gall bladder, colon, small intestine, stomach, bladder.
Appendicitis

- Appendix become clogged with stool and becomes infected.
- Pain in right lower quadrant with referred pain to navel.

Ulcers

- An ulcer is when the lining of the organ is irritated or worn through.
- Epigastric pain.
- GI ulcers happen in esophagus, stomach and duodenum.
- History of alcohol and/or aspirin.
- Doesn't hurt as bad after eating. The food dilutes the stomach acids.

Pancreatitis

- Epigastric pain.
- Hurts more after the patient eats.
- Can affect digestion and insulin production.

Cholecystitis

- Gall Bladder infection.
- Gall bladder holds bile from liver. Bile is green in color.
• Bile breaks down fats.

• Hurts in right upper quadrant with referred pain to right shoulder.

• Hurts more after eating fatty foods.

• The 5 "F"er is a gall bladder every time - fat, farts, female, fertile, forty.

Pelvic Inflammatory Disease

• Female has an infection in pelvis area.

• Most commonly from a sexually transmitted disease.

• They do the pelvis shuffle. Hurts to move pelvis when they walk.

• Hurts with intercourse, urination possible, etc....

Ectopic (tubal) pregnancy

• Any female of childbearing age with abdominal pain, even if they say they are on birth control and have had no sex, is tubal until proven otherwise.

• Embryo develops in fallopian tubes and as it grows rupture them. Major bleeding. Fetal bleeding possible.

Abdominal Aortic Aneurism

• Triple "A"
• A weakened blood vessel ruptures and blood leaks out. Death in minutes if no surgery to repair.

• Death does depend on size of leak.

• Pulsating masses in abdominal area matching the pulse.

• Distended abdomen.

• Decreased lower extremity pulses.

• BP drop/ shock.

• This is kind of what John Ritter had. Not exactly the same but the same outcome.

Cystitis

• Bladder infection.

• Hurts to urinate.

• Cannot start and stop.

• Fever possible.

Kidney Stones or Kidney Infection

• Flank pain radiating to groin.

• Blood in urine.

• Patient doesn't want to drink because they will have to urinate.

• High calcium intake for stones.
Hepatitis

- Liver infection
- Dull right upper quadrant pain.
- Yellow skins, eyes.
- Weight loss possible.

Dehydration

- Can happen for any fluid loss. Burns, bleeding, vomiting, not eating, etc....
- No tears when crying.
- Dry mucosa in mouth.
- Positive tilt test.
- Diarrhea.
- Vomiting.
- DKA - diabetics.
- Skin Turgor - pinch skin and it stays standing for more than 3 seconds.
- Care: Give nothing PO unless medical control tells you to.

Review Tilt (orthostatic) test

- Indicated hypotension / volume problems.
• Take BP or Pulse or Both at same time. Take lying down, sitting up and standing.

• If pulse increases by more than 10 to 15 BPM or BP falls by more than 10 to 15 mmHg it is a positive test.

• Let them adjust for 1 to 2 minutes before taking vitals.

• The test is over immediately if you sit them up and they become light headed.