

General Medicine & Surgery

medical student revision guide

- ✓ everything you need to [prepare for exams](#)
- ✓ [diagrams](#), flowcharts, colour coding and summary boxes
- ✓ includes [all core topics](#) for medical finals & foundation years
- ✓ peer-reviewed with the [latest guidelines](#)

**Rebecca Richardson
& Ricky Ellis**

Cardiology

Endocrinology

Gastroenterology

Hepato-pancreato-biliary

Haematology

Immunology & allergy

Neurology

Renal

Respiratory

Surgical principles

The acute abdomen

Gastrointestinal surgery

The breast

Vascular surgery

Urology

Critical illness

Emergency presentations

Rheumatology

Trauma & orthopaedics

General Medicine & Surgery

medical student revision guide

“I like the unique style ... It is simple, engaging and easy to read, whatever your learning preferences (I particularly like the colour coding!). It also covers topics comprehensively, making it not only a great aide-memoire but also a very useful everyday book on the ward.”

From the Foreword by
Professor Farah Bhatti OBE
Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon

Student Ambassadors

We are looking for student ambassadors at all UK Med Schools to help us with the following:

- review book ideas, proposals and manuscripts
- promote Scion books locally, especially our Scion VIP Club which gives 30% discount on all our books and free economy postage

To find out more, please contact simon.watkins@scionpublishing.com

Feedback, errors and omissions

We are always pleased to receive feedback (good and bad) about our books – if you would like to comment on any of our books, please email info@scionpublishing.com.

We've worked really hard with the authors to ensure that everything in the book is correct. However, errors and ambiguities can still slip through in books as complex as this. If you spot anything you think might be wrong, please email us and we will look into it straight away. If an error has occurred, we will correct it for future printings and post a note about it on our website so that other readers of the book are alerted to this.

Thank you for your help.

General Medicine & Surgery

medical student revision guide

Rebecca Richardson

BMBS, BMedSci
Junior Doctor, Royal Derby Hospital, Derby

Ricky Ellis

PhD, MRCS, MBChB, BSc, DPD, MFSTEd, FHEA
Urology Specialist Registrar, Royal Derby
Hospital, Derby



Scion

Cardiology

Endocrinology

Gastroenterology

Hepato-pancreato-biliary

Haematology

Immunology & allergy

Neurology

Renal

Respiratory

Surgical principles

The acute abdomen

Gastrointestinal surgery

The breast

Vascular surgery

Urology

Critical illness

Emergency presentations

Rheumatology

Trauma & orthopaedics

© **Scion Publishing Ltd, 2023**

First published 2023

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without permission.

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 9781914961182

Scion Publishing Limited

The Old Hayloft, Vantage Business Park, Bloxham Road, Banbury OX16 9UX, UK

www.scionpublishing.com

Important Note from the Publisher

The information contained within this book was obtained by Scion Publishing Ltd from sources believed by us to be reliable. However, while every effort has been made to ensure its accuracy, no responsibility for loss or injury whatsoever occasioned to any person acting or refraining from action as a result of information contained herein can be accepted by the authors or publishers.

Readers are reminded that medicine is a constantly evolving science and while the authors and publishers have ensured that all dosages, applications and practices are based on current indications, there may be specific practices which differ between communities. You should always follow the guidelines laid down by the manufacturers of specific products and the relevant authorities in the country in which you are practising.

Although every effort has been made to ensure that all owners of copyright material have been acknowledged in this publication, we would be pleased to acknowledge in subsequent reprints or editions any omissions brought to our attention.

Registered names, trademarks, etc. used in this book, even when not marked as such, are not to be considered unprotected by law.

Typeset by Medlar Publishing Solutions Pvt Ltd, India

Printed in the UK

Last digit is the print number: 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Contents

Foreword	viii
Preface	ix
Acknowledgements	x
About the authors.....	x
Peer reviewers.....	xi
General abbreviations.....	xii
How to use this book	xiii

CHAPTER 1: CARDIOLOGY 1

Acute coronary syndrome	2
Chronic stable angina	4
Heart valve disease	5
Infective endocarditis	7
Congestive cardiac failure.....	8
Acute pulmonary oedema.....	9
Syncope.....	10
Atrial fibrillation	11
Miscellaneous cardiac conditions.....	12

CHAPTER 2: ENDOCRINOLOGY 15

Diabetes mellitus	16
Pituitary disorders.....	20
Adrenal disease	22
Thyroid disease.....	26
Parathyroid disease	29
Sodium imbalance.....	31

CHAPTER 3: GASTROENTEROLOGY 33

Clinical nutrition	34
Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease	35
Peptic ulcer disease	36
Gastro-intestinal haemorrhage	37
Dysphagia	38
Oesophageal cancer.....	39
Gastric cancer.....	40
Coeliac disease.....	41
Obesity.....	41
Acute diarrhoea.....	42
Irritable bowel syndrome.....	43
Inflammatory bowel disease.....	44

CHAPTER 4: HEPATO-PANCREATO-BILIARY 47

Hepatitis	48
Ascites.....	50
Liver neoplasms	51
Chronic pancreatitis	52
Haemochromatosis	52
The spleen.....	53
Jaundice	54
Gallbladder disease	55
Pancreatic neoplasms	57

CHAPTER 5: HAEMATOLOGY 59

Haematological lineage	60
Anaemia overview	61
Anaemia from reduced RBC production	62
Haemolytic anaemias.....	63
Thalassaemias.....	65
Sickle cell disease	66
Pancytopenia	67
Myeloproliferative disorders	68
Multiple myeloma.....	69
Leukaemia	70
Lymphoma.....	72
Haemostasis	73
Coagulation disorders.....	74
Investigating bleeding problems.....	76
Blood transfusion	77

CHAPTER 6: IMMUNOLOGY AND ALLERGY 81

Allergic disorders	82
Autoimmune & immunodeficiency disorders	83

CHAPTER 7: NEUROLOGY**85****Nervous system structure & function**

Areas of the brain	86
Vision	87
Spinal cord tracts	88

Nervous system investigations

Lumbar puncture	90
Imaging with CT & MRI	91

Acute neurological disease

Acute spinal problems	92
Neuromuscular emergencies	93
Acute hydrocephalus	94
Cortical venous sinus thrombosis	95
Stroke and cerebrovascular disease	96
CNS infection	99
Brain abscess	100

Long-term neurological conditions

Neuro-oncology	101
Multiple sclerosis	102
Epilepsy	104
Neuropathies	107
Motor neurone disease	110
Myasthenia gravis	111
Myopathies	112
Essential tremor	113
Headaches	114

CHAPTER 8: RENAL**117**

Acute kidney injury	118
Chronic kidney disease	120
Glomerular disease	122
Urinary tract infection	124
Haematuria	124

CHAPTER 9: RESPIRATORY**125**

Respiratory failure	126
Pneumothorax	127
Pleural effusion	128
Pneumonia	129
Tuberculosis	130
Covid-19	131
Asthma	132
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	134
Bronchiectasis	136
Sleep apnoea	137

Cystic fibrosis	138
Lung cancer	139
Sarcoidosis	140
Interstitial lung disease	141
Occupational lung disease	142

CHAPTER 10: GENERAL SURGICAL PRINCIPLES**143**

Wound healing	144
Postoperative care	145
Postoperative assessment	147
Fluid therapy	148

CHAPTER 11: THE ACUTE ABDOMEN**151**

General overview	152
Acute pancreatitis	154
Meckel's diverticulum	156
Acute appendicitis	157
Diverticular disease	158
Gastrointestinal perforation	159
Intestinal obstruction	160
Hernias	162

CHAPTER 12: GASTROINTESTINAL SURGERY**165**

Perianal disease	166
Colorectal cancer	168
Anal cancer	170

CHAPTER 13: THE BREAST**171**

Breast conditions	172
-------------------------	-----

CHAPTER 14: VASCULAR DISEASE**175**

Hypertension	176
Carotid artery disease	178
Aneurysms	179
Acute aortic syndromes	180
Chronic peripheral arterial disease	181
Acute limb ischaemia	184
Amputation	185
Vasospastic disorders	186
Thoracic outlet syndrome	187
Varicose veins	188
Leg ulcers	189
Venous thromboembolic disease	190
Lymphoedema	192

CHAPTER 15: UROLOGY 193

Stone disease (nephrolithiasis).....	194
Urinary tract malignancy	195
Bladder outlet obstruction	197
Bladder trauma.....	199
Scrotal lumps	200
Testicular tumours	202
Conditions of the penis	203

CHAPTER 16: CRITICAL ILLNESS 205

The critically ill patient.....	206
The semi-conscious/unconscious patient	207
Organ support	208

CHAPTER 17: EMERGENCY PRESENTATIONS 211

Acid–base disorders	212
Electrolyte abnormalities	213
Overdoses	215
Seizures	216
Sepsis	217
Shock.....	218
Life-threatening arrhythmia.....	220
Cardiac arrest	222
Specific presentations.....	223

CHAPTER 18: RHEUMATOLOGY 227

Regional periarticular pain	228
Neck & back pain.....	233
Peripheral nerve entrapment	237
Fibromyalgia	238

Crystal-associated arthritis	239
Rheumatoid arthritis.....	241
Seronegative spondyloarthritis.....	243
Multisystem connective tissue disease	245
Systemic vasculitis	248
Polymyalgia rheumatica.....	249
Miscellaneous musculoskeletal conditions	250

CHAPTER 19: TRAUMA & ORTHOPAEDICS 253**Musculoskeletal conditions**

Bone and joint infection.....	254
Musculoskeletal malignancy.....	256
Diseases of the bone	258
Osteoarthritis	260

Trauma

Primary survey	261
Secondary survey	262
Head injuries	263
Spinal cord injury	266
Chest injuries.....	268
Major haemorrhage	269
Burns	270

Fractures

General fracture principles	272
Pathological fractures	276
Common adult fractures	277
Common paediatric fractures	283

Figure acknowledgements.....	285
Index of conditions.....	287

Foreword

A book such as this takes time, effort and dedication from all the contributors who do this alongside their already busy clinical work. It is heartening to see this commitment to supporting the education and advancement of the next generation of doctors and allied health professionals.

I like the unique style which is based on Dr Richardson's personal notes whilst a medical student. It is simple, engaging and easy to read, whatever your learning preferences (I particularly like the colour coding!) It also covers topics comprehensively, making it not only a great aide-memoire but also a very useful everyday book on the ward. The judicious use of references (e.g. NICE guidelines and BMJ Best Practice) also enables readers to look into subjects in depth if needed, without affecting the flow of the text.

Once again, I commend the authors on their remarkable efforts and wish everyone who picks up this book well in their careers.

*Professor Farah Bhatti OBE
Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon*

Preface

I remember it well. Countless evenings sat at my desk, desperately trying to work out what I needed to know, and how I was going to know it. Hours spent trudging through textbooks, soaking up line after line of information, only to be left certain that after a week on my new placement, it would all be forgotten. **Medical school is tough.** The vast volume of knowledge that must be acquired and retained, to achieve the standards expected of a safe and successful doctor, is a daunting task. But as you will find at every stage in your medical career, **help is always available if you know where to look.** For you, I hope this book can be your help. I present it as your trusted companion, a loyal friend that will stand by your side through good times and bad, something to turn to when you need **guidance, reassurance, or simply just a place to start!**

There is no end of resources available for medical students, all designed to make the journey from student to doctor that little bit easier. For me, I found this wealth of information to be just as much of a curse as it was a blessing. Not only was I faced with the overwhelming task of learning it all, but I first had to find and dissect the parts that were relevant to me. **Wouldn't it be easier if everything I needed to know was in the same place?** The simple answer – yes. And that is how I started to write this book.

My first goal when creating the *Medical Student Revision Guides* was to bring together **all the key topics needed for medical school exams and life as a junior doctor** in one readily available place. I did this through summarising a variety of recognised resources, including textbooks, articles and clinical guidelines. This has been **supplemented by the expert knowledge of specialists** in each field, who have reviewed each chapter to ensure it is accurate and reflects the most up-to-date guidance.

My second goal was to do everything I could to help you remember this information. I appreciate everyone is unique in the way they learn, but with most of us relying on **vision as our dominant sense**, it seemed illogical not to utilise its power. As such, I have specifically designed this book with an **extensive use of colour, diagrams and summary tables**, to create a resource that is visually striking and a refreshing change from your current textbooks. The informal 'notes-style' layout and dedicated column that allows for your own annotations on each page, are features that I hope make the content feel **more accessible and easier to engage with.**

It is my sincere hope that you find this book useful, whether it be as your comprehensive revision resource, or a quick reminder of a condition that you come across on the ward. **I am forever grateful for any feedback** that can help me to better help you, so please do leave a review with your honest thoughts.

I wish you luck with your exams, and all the best for your future careers.

Rebecca Richardson

Disclaimer

It is important to note that this book is designed as a revision tool and aide-memoire. It is not intended to give an in-depth understanding of each condition, but rather to focus on the key points that often appear in undergraduate exams. It should not be solely relied upon in clinical situations; please always check the most current and local guidelines before implementing management or administering any treatment.

Every attempt has been made to ensure that the most up-to-date information has been included at the time of writing this book. However, due to the continuously evolving nature of the medical profession, and with variations in clinical practice between hospital Trusts, this cannot be guaranteed. It is therefore advised that you correlate these notes to other resources, and supplement them with your own clinical encounters, to ensure a complete learning experience. Readers should also ensure that they learn all elements of their own medical school curriculum, regardless of whether they are covered in this book.

Acknowledgements

I must firstly say a huge thank you to the team at Scion Publishing for making this book a reality. A special mention to Jonathan and Clare, for your tireless work overcoming layout issues and design problems, to ensure the end product was everything I had hoped it would be.

Secondly, I would like to thank my co-author, Ricky. Your advice and guidance have been invaluable in this process. Your wealth of experience in the field of medical education has undoubtedly benefited the book and its readers, and remains an inspiration for my future work.

My thanks are extended to all those who have contributed time and expertise as a chapter reviewer. I will be eternally grateful that you could see the potential in my work in its early stages and gave up your own time to help me achieve it. The abundance of knowledge and experience you have brought is priceless and will underpin the learning of many future doctors.

Finally, to my loved ones. To Mum and Dad, for the years of selflessness and sacrifice that allowed me the opportunities to achieve all that I have today. To my brother, Chris, whose artistic talent never fails to amaze me, and has inspired the covers and diagrams of both my books. To Nana, Gran, Grandad and Margaret, for the timeless wisdom and unconditional love that only grandparents can provide. And to Martin, for your endless patience, support and encouragement in all that I do.

Thank you.

About the authors

Rebecca Richardson is a junior doctor currently working in the East Midlands. After graduating from the University of Nottingham as one of the top students in her year, with first class honours, she became passionate about helping others to follow in her footsteps. Her revision notes have already helped hundreds of medical students across the UK prepare for their exams. Rebecca has continued her mission to support students and trainees through creating content for a variety of medical education platforms, as well as running regular virtual teaching sessions to help students practise for their clinical examinations.

Ricky Ellis is a Urology Specialist Registrar, Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer and Research Associate for the Intercollegiate Committee for Basic Surgical Examinations (ICBSE). Ricky is an award-winning trainer and regularly organises teaching courses including the internationally delivered 'Urology Boot Camp for Medical Students'. He is passionate about improving training for medical students and junior doctors and was awarded the prestigious Association of Surgeons in Training and Faculty of Surgical Trainers Silver Suture Award for contributions to and excellence in surgical training.

Peer reviewers

Section	Peer reviewer
Cardiology	Dr Manish Gandhi Consultant Cardiologist, Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Endocrinology	Dr David Hughes Consultant in Diabetes, Endocrinology & Bariatric Medicine, University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Trust
Gastroenterology	Dr J H Williams Consultant Gastroenterologist, University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust
Hepatobiliary	
Haematology	Dr M Bishton Clinical Associate Professor, University of Nottingham, School of Translational Sciences Honorary Consultant Haematologist Nottinghamshire University Hospitals NHS Trust National Cancer Registration and Analysis Service (NCRAS) lead for Haemato-oncology NHS-Digital
Neurology	Dr S L Toh Consultant Neurologist, University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust
	Dr M Kolappan Consultant Neurologist, Neuro-ophthalmologist and Headache Specialist, University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust
Renal medicine	Dr Nitin Kolhe Consultant Nephrologist and Clinical Director for Specialist Medicine at University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Trust
Respiratory	Dr NJ Withers Consultant in CF/Respiratory Medicine, Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
General surgery	Miss Ruth Parks General Surgery Registrar (East Midlands North), Clinical Research Fellow (University of Nottingham)
GI surgery	
Vascular surgery	Mr Andrew Duncan Vascular Registrar and Honorary Research Fellow, University of Leicester
Urology	Mr Ricky Ellis Urology Specialist Registrar, University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust
Critical illness	Dr Emily Howells Consultant in Intensive Care Medicine and Anaesthetics, Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Emergency presentations	
Trauma	Dr Chris Leighton Advanced Trainee Intensive Care Medicine and Anaesthetics, University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust
Rheumatology	Dr Clare Webb Senior Clinical Educator in Rheumatology, University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust and Honorary (Consultant) Assistant Professor University of Nottingham Dr Adam Munks Senior Clinical Educator in Musculoskeletal Medicine, University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust and Honorary (Consultant) Assistant Professor University of Nottingham
Trauma & orthopaedics	Mr Tony Bateman Consultant Trauma, Orthopaedic and Spine Surgeon, University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Trust

General abbreviations

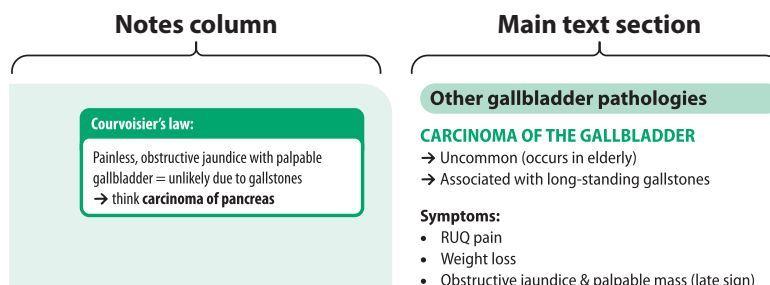
Each chapter begins with a set of abbreviations specific for that chapter.

2ww – 2 week wait	eGFR – Estimated GFR	PCR – Polymerase chain reaction
a. – Arterial	ENT – Ear, nose and throat	PE – Pulmonary embolism
ABCDE – Airways, Breathing, Circulation, Disability, Exposure	EPO – Erythropoietin	PET – Positron emission tomography
ABG – Arterial blood gas	ESR – Erythrocyte sedimentation rate	PHx – Past history
ABX – Antibiotics	FBC – Full blood count	PNS – Peripheral nervous system
AXR – Abdominal X-ray	FHx – Family history	PO – (per ora) Orally
BB – Beta-blocker	G&S – Group & save	PR – Per rectum
BD – Twice a day	GA – General anaesthetic	PRN – Pro re nata (as required)
BG – Blood glucose	GCS – Glasgow Coma Score/Scale	pulm. – Pulmonary
BMI – Body mass index	GFR – Glomerular filtration rate	QDS – Four times a day
BP – Blood pressure	GI – Gastrointestinal	RA – Rheumatoid arthritis
ca – Cancer	GP – General practitioner	RBC – Red blood cell
Ca – Calcium	h – Hour	RFT – Renal function test
CBT – Cognitive behavioural therapy	Hb – Haemoglobin	RHS – Right-hand side
CCB – Calcium channel blocker	HF – Heart failure	r/o – Risk of
CCF – Congestive cardiac failure	HIV – Human immunodeficiency virus	R/V – Review
CF – Cystic fibrosis	HR – Heart rate	re – Regarding
CHF – Chronic heart failure	HTN – Hypertension	RF – Risk factor
CI – Contraindication	ICP – Intracranial pressure	RR – Respiration rate
CK – Creatine kinase	Ig – Immunoglobulin	s – Second
CKD – Chronic kidney disease	IHD – Ischaemic heart disease	SALT – Speech and language therapy
CMV – Cytomegalovirus	IM – Intramuscular	SBP – Systolic blood pressure
CN – Cranial nerve	inc. – Including	SC – Subcutaneous
CNS – Central nervous system	IV – Intravenous	SD – Standard deviation
CPAP – Continuous positive airway pressure	IVDU – Intravenous drug user	SE – Side-effect
CPR – Cardiopulmonary resuscitation	Ix – Investigation	SL – Sublingual
Cr – Creatinine	JVP – Jugular venous pressure	SLE – Systemic lupus erythematosus
CRP – C-reactive protein	LFT – Liver function test	SOB – Shortness of breath
CRT – Capillary refill time	LHS – Left-hand side	SSRI – Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor
CSF – Cerebrospinal fluid	LMWH – Low molecular weight heparin	Sx – Symptoms
CT – Computed tomography	LOC – Loss of consciousness	TB – Tuberculosis
CV – Cardiovascular	m – Month	TCA – Tricyclic antidepressant
CVA – Cerebrovascular accident	mcg – Microgram	TDS – Three times a day
CVD – Cardiovascular disease	MCS – Microscopy, culture and sensitivity	TFT – Thyroid function test
CXR – Chest X-ray	MDT – Multidisciplinary team	TIA – Transient ischaemic attack
D&V – Diarrhoea and vomiting	MI – Myocardial infarction	TNM – Tumour, nodes, metastases
d – Day	min – Minute	Tx – Treatment
DBP – Diastolic blood pressure	MND – Motor neurone disease	U&Es – Urea & electrolytes
DDx – Differential diagnosis	MRI – Magnetic resonance imaging	USS – Ultrasound scan
DM – Diabetes mellitus	Mx – Management	UTI – Urinary tract infection
DOAC – Direct oral anticoagulant	NBM – Nil by mouth	VBG – Venous blood gas
DRE – Digital rectal examination	NSAID – Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug	vit – Vitamin
DVLA – Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	N&V – Nausea & vomiting	VTE – Venous thromboembolism
Dx – Diagnosis	OCD – Obsessive-compulsive disorder	W – Week
ECG – Electrocardiogram	OD – Once a day	WBC – White blood cell
ECT – Electroconvulsive therapy	O/E – On examination	WCC – White cell count
EEG – Electroencephalogram	OT – Occupational therapist	WHO – World Health Organization
		y – Year

How to use this book

The underlying principle of this book is to present information in a way that is **eye-catching, clear and easy to remember**. This page will explain some of the **key layout features** that have been used to achieve this.

1. Notes column – each page is divided into a main text section, and a tinted notes column. The notes column is used to house additional information, and to provide space for your own notes, should you wish to make any.



2. Text colour

- **chapter coloured text** – used to expand on a point / provide extra information
- **grey text** – used for less important information
- **red text** – used for red flags and emergency points
- **blue text** – used for extra points / annotations

3. Highlighting – words/phrases that have been highlighted are linked to extra information. Look for another highlight of the same colour on the page to find this information. *The below example uses green highlighting to link 'Skin fold' to the additional information 'Normal fold thickness'.*

<p>Waist circum. in obesity</p> <p>Women >88cm Men >102cm</p>	<p>Normal fold thickness</p> <p>Women =30mm Men =20mm</p>	<p>3. Anthropometry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waist circumference & waist:hip ratio • Height, weight & BMI (w/h²) • MUAC & growth charts – in children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skin fold thickness – subcutaneous fat • Grip strength • Bioelectric impedance/DEXA – body composition
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Albumin = poor measure of nutritional status as drops in inflammation

4. Box colours – a variety of different boxes are used to display information.

- **Yellow tinted box** – for triggers / risk factors, complications & prognosis
- **Blue tinted box** – for differential diagnoses
- **Red box** – for red flags / emergency points
- **Chapter coloured box** – for all other types of information

Risk factors for carcinoma:

- **Cirrhosis** (NAFLD, chronic hepatitis)
- *Aspergillus*
- Metabolic liver condition
- Anabolic steroids
- Parasites

Yellow-tinted

DDx microcytic anaemia: TAILS

- **Thalassaemia** (α or β-thalassaemia trait)
- **Anaemia** of chronic disease e.g. renal failure
- **Iron**-deficiency anaemia
- **Lead** poisoning
- **Sideroblastic** anaemia

Blue-tinted

Inflammatory breast cancer

= rare & aggressive subtype

Sx: sudden, red/swollen breast, peau d'orange

→ **no lump**

→ *early axillary spread*

Mx: neoadjuvant chemo, then surgery

DDx: infection

Red

Acute coronary syndrome

Key differentials:

- Coronary spasm
- Pericarditis/myocarditis
- Aortic dissection
- MSK (costochondritis)
- PE
- Pneumothorax
- GORD
- PUD

Risk factors

- Smoking
- Hypertension
- Alcohol
- Diabetes mellitus
- FHx
- Previous IHD

BEWARE ATYPICAL PRESENTATION: 'silent MI'

= ACS with no chest pain

Instead: syncope / pulmonary oedema / epigastric pain → in elderly/diabetics/females

Serial troponin: shows continued rise at 6h, peak at 24h

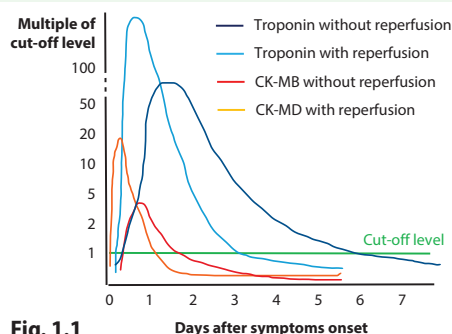


Fig. 1.1

STEMI: complete occlusion

= ST elevation AND ↑ troponin

NSTEMI: partial occlusion

= ST depression / T wave inversion OR normal ECG AND ↑ troponin

UA: partial occlusion

= ST depression / T wave inversion WITHOUT ↑ troponin

ST-elevation criteria:

>1 mm in ≥2 contiguous* limb leads
OR

>2mm in ≥2 contiguous* chest leads
+ ST depression in reciprocal leads

Posterior STEMI:

ST depression in ≥2 chest leads V1–4
AND ≥0.5mm ST elevation in any V7–9

*contiguous = represent same territory

Medicine

→ STEMI, NSTEMI & unstable angina (not stable angina)

Pathogenesis

- Atherosclerosis:** fatty deposition in artery wall causes plaque build-up
- ACS when:** Plaque rupture → Thrombosis → Vasoconstriction → Ischaemia
± distal thromboembolism

Results in a transmural or subendocardial infarct (circumferential infarct if global hypoperfusion)

Clinical presentation

- **Severe, 'crushing' chest pain** (at rest)
- retrosternal, radiating to arm/neck/jaw
- lasts >20min & NOT RELIEVED by 3× GTN sprays***
- **Sympathetic symptoms:** sweating, palpitations, dyspnoea, nausea
- sense of 'impending doom'

*Angina is <20min / relievable

On examination

- Sympathetic Sx:** pallor, sweating, tachycardia
- Myocardial impairment:** hypotension, ↑ JVP, basal creps, 3rd heart sound, pulmonary/peripheral oedema

Investigations

- Bloods:** ↑ lipids, ↓ glucose, clotting
- Serial troponin:** on admission + 6–12h later →
- ECG:** within 10min of presentation
- Other:** CXR, ECHO, angiogram (r/o DDx, assess prognosis & determine best Tx)

Other causes ↑ troponin:

- myocarditis/pericarditis
- post-PCI**
- ventricular strain / HF
- burns/sepsis
- PE**
- renal failure

But these show consistently high levels

STEMI ECG CHANGES:

New LBBB + chest pain = assumed STEMI

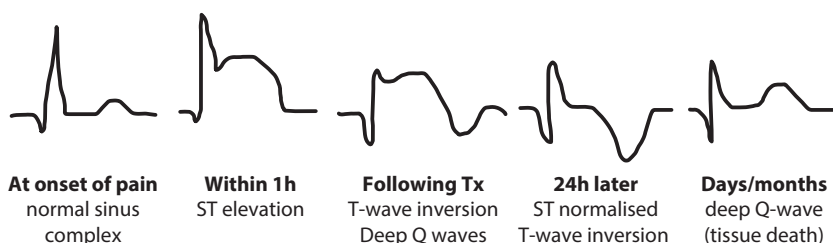


Fig. 1.2

Widespread concave ST elevation = pericarditis

NSTEMI ECG CHANGES (IF PRESENT):

≥0.5mm ST depression in ≥2 contiguous* leads
AND >1mm T depression in leads with +ve QRS

Takotsubo: 'broken heart syndrome' (stress cardiomyopathy):

appears with Sx & ECG changes of STEMI but normal angiogram

Management¹

	NSTEMI/UA	STEMI
Acute	Morphine + metoclopramide (5–10mg) Oxygen (if sats <90%) Nitrates (GTN spray) Antiplatelets (300mg chewable aspirin + loading dose ticagrelor/clopidogrel/prasugrel) Anticoagulant (fondaparinux 2.5mg for 72h)	
	1. GRACE score : assess inpatient & 6m mortality 2. DAPT score : predicts who will benefit from dual antiplatelet therapy 3. Angiographic assessment 4. Revascularisation options : PCI, CABG	First line: primary PCI ideally if <120min from onset (95% success) Target 150min call → balloon time Second line: thrombolysis (rarely used as many contraindications)
Long-term	A 1. Lifelong Aspirin : 75mg OD A 2. Continue 2nd Antiplatelet : ticagrelor/clopidogrel/prasugrel (for 1y) BB 3. Lifelong Beta-Blocker : bisoprolol (HR at 60bpm) A 4. Lifelong Atorvastatin A 5. ACEi : ramipril 6. Treat underlying problems : HF/HTN (BP <140/90)	
Rehab	Optimise physical, psychological & social functioning + stabilise/slow atherosclerosis Patient education : about risk factors for CVD Exercise programme : gradual return Return to work : usually after 2w (depends on job)	

Remember acute management as 'MONA(A)'

RETURN TO DRIVING:
Angina: if Sx controlled
PCI: 1w
CABG: 4w
ICD: 6m

GRACE score parameters to predict inpatient & 6m mortality

1. Age
2. HR
3. SBP
4. Creatinine
5. Any CHF
6. Cardiac arrest at admission
7. ST segment changes
8. Elevated cardiac markers

Although GRACE score has good predictive value of mortality, it is often not used in practice.

Local logistics determines speed of cardiac catheterisation. STEMI have primary PCI immediately on arrival, NSTEMI and unstable angina have inpatient cardiac catheterisation as soon as feasible, prior to discharge.

NSTEMI: dual antiplatelet therapy

Aspirin + ticagrelor/clopidogrel/prasugrel
 → consider lower dose if high bleeding risk (HASBLED score)
 → consider stopping if going for CABG revascularisation
 → consider GI protection with PPI if >65y or Hx of GORD/PUD

Complications of ACS

D	Death	
A	Arrhythmia	AF, VF, VT, bradyarrhythmias (VF = most common complication)
R	Rupture	Of papillary muscles / ventricular wall / septum (causes MR, VSD & LVF)
T	Tamponade	Due to ventricular wall rupture = Beck's triad
H	Heart failure	May be due to VSD = cardiogenic shock
V	Valve problem	Due to papillary muscle dysfunction/rupture = new murmur
A	Aneurysm of ventricle	Due to weakened ventricular wall
D	Dressler's syndrome	Immune-mediated pericarditis (usually 2–3w later)
E	Emboli	From thrombus forming over damaged left ventricle wall
R	Recurrence	

Beck's triad:

1. ↑ JVP
2. ↓ BP
3. Quiet heart sounds

Dressler's syndrome:

1. Fever
2. Chest pain
3. Exertional dyspnoea
4. Pericardial effusion

¹ NICE (2020) *Acute coronary syndromes* [NG185]

Pituitary disorders

Mass effects of pituitary adenoma:

- **Bitemporal hemianopia** = from pressure on **optic chiasm**
- Ocular palsies = from pressure on **cavernous sinus** (CN 3,4,6)
- Headache from ↑ ICP
- Altered appetite/thirst/sleep = from pressure on **hypothalamus**
- **Hypopituitarism** from destruction of functional tissue
- **Hyperprolactinaemia** from **stalk effect**

'The stalk effect'

- **Dopamine** released from hypothalamus reaches pituitary gland **via pituitary stalk**
- Normally dopamine **INHIBITS** prolactin
- **Damaged/compressed stalk** = ↓ DA = ↓ inhibition = **HYPERPROLACTINAEMIA**
- **Secretory prolactinoma plus compression effects** = **MASSIVE PROLACTIN** ↑ (>10,000)

Hypopituitarism:

- Sx = vague & non-specific
- General Mx = **HORMONE REPLACEMENT**
- Ix & Tx of specific cause

DDx hypopituitarism:

Pituitary	Hypothalamic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-functioning adenoma • Metastatic tumour • Surgical resection of gland • Apoplexy (vascular insult) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Craniopharyngioma • Infarction • Infection • Sarcoid

The pituitary gland sits below the hypothalamus & optic chiasm

Pituitary adenoma: **BENIGN**

1. Microadenoma <1cm

2. Macroadenoma >1cm = mass effects

- **Functioning:** secrete hormones (70–80%)
- **Non-functioning:** not secretory (20–30%)



Fig. 2.3 Visual fields in **bitemporal hemianopia**.

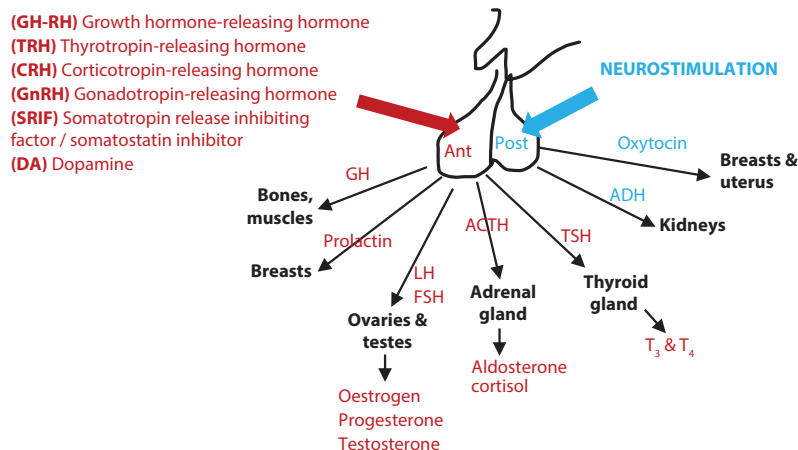


Fig. 2.4 Functions of the pituitary gland.

Hypopituitarism

	Hormone lacking	Clinical effects	Management
Typical order of hormone loss ↓	GH	Children: short stature Adults: no Sx / abnormal body composition / fatigue	GH analogue
	LH/FSH (↓ sex hormones)	Children: delayed puberty Adults: no Sx / hypogonadism / amenorrhoea	Testosterone (males) or HRT (females)
	TSH (↓ T ₃ /T ₄)	Hypothyroidism (cold, weight loss, tired)	Thyroxine
	ACTH (↓ cortisol)	Lethargy, weight loss, ↓ glucose, ↓ Na	Hydrocortisone/prednisolone
	PROLACTIN	Failed lactation	—
	ADH	Diabetes insipidus (polyuria/polydipsia)	Desmopressin

INVESTIGATIONS:

1. History & examination: including visual fields & cranial nerves

2. Pituitary hormones:

- All except prolactin: **LOW/normal**
- **PROLACTIN**
 - **500–1000:** (micro-prolactinoma) **or** (non-functioning tumour compressing stalk) **or** (other cause of ↑ prolactin*) →
 - Renal impairment
 - Antipsychotics
 - Pregnancy/OC
 - **>1000:** (micro-prolactinoma **AND** stalk compression) **or** (macroprolactinoma)

3. Effector gland hormones: **LOW** (T₃/T₄, FSH*, IGF-1, 9am cortisol)

*FSH should be high if post-menopausal as ↓ oestradiol (no more follicles)

4. Stimulation tests: LOW / no response

- **For ACTH deficiency:** insulin stress test (IST)
- **For acromegaly:** OGTT → GH suppression
- **For non-pituitary cause of adrenal disease:** Synacthen test

When given insulin, blood glucose drops → hypoglycaemia triggers ACTH release – no ↑ ACTH suggests deficiency

When given glucose in OGTT, GH should be suppressed
No suppression suggests acromegaly (check IGF-1 levels)

5. Imaging: CT/MRI – determine pathology

Secretory/functional adenomas

→ can produce >1 hormone

Type of adenoma	Hormonal effect	Symptoms	Treatment
Prolactinoma 35% (F:M = 5:1)	HYPERPROLACTINAEMIA ↑ basal prolactin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Galactorrhoea (+ female amenorrhoea) • ↓ Fertility, ↓ libido, hypogonadism • Complications: osteoporosis 	DA agonist* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cabergoline • bromocriptine
GH-secreting 20%	ACROMEGALY/GIGANTISM ↑ IGF-1 & glucose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ↑ Size hands/feet <i>slow onset</i> • Coarse facies, wide-spaced teeth • Vision loss • Tired, headache, sweaty, ↓ libido • Complications: DM, HTN, OSA 	1. Surgery: transsphenoidal 2. Radiotherapy 3. Medical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DA agonist • somatostatin analogue
ACTH-secreting 10%	CUSHING DISEASE ↑ cortisol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ↑ Weight, DM, ↓ libido • Hair, striae, hump 	
TSH-secreting rare	HYPERTHYROIDISM ↑ T _{3/4}	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ↓ Weight, fatigue • Hot, sweaty, palpitations 	

Raised TSH & T₄ usually indicates poor compliance with LT₄ treatment

LH-/FSH-secreting adenoma = VERY RARE

Oesophageal cancer

→ **UK prevalence:** 14 in 100,000 (increasing due to RFs)

→ **M:F = 2:1**

Squamous cell (20%): upper 2/3 oesophagus

RF = **smoking, alcohol**, Asian, achalasia

Adenocarcinoma (80%): lower 1/3 oesophagus

RF = **smoking, alcohol**, obesity, Barrett's oesophagus (GORD)

Symptoms

- **Progressive dysphagia:** solids → liquids → saliva
- Weight loss & anorexia
- Retrosternal chest pain
- Lymphadenopathy
- ± cough, aspiration, hoarseness

Investigations

- **OGD & biopsy – histological grading**
- **CT chest, abdo, pelvis – TNM staging**
- Endoscopic USS – more detailed T&N staging
- PET scan – detects metabolically active mets

TNM staging

Tumour	Nodes	Metastases
T_{is} – tumour <i>in situ</i>	N₀ none	M₀ no mets
T_{1a} – invades lamina propria	N₁ 1–2 LNs	M₁ distant mets
T_{1b} – invades submucosa	N₂ 3–6 LNs	
T₂ – invades muscularis propria	N₃ 7+ LNs	
T₃ – invades adventitia		
T₄ – invades adjacent tissues		

Management⁵

Adenocarcinoma	
T_{is} or T_{1a} (N ₀ , M ₀)	Endoscopic mucosal resection/dissection (EMR/EMD)
T_{1b} (N ₀ , M ₀) or >75yrs	Surgical resection or definitive chemoradiotherapy
T₂, T₃, T₄ (M ₀)	Neoadjuvant chemo → surgery + adjuvant chemo
Squamous cell carcinoma	
T_{1a} (N ₀)	EMR/EMD
All others (M ₀)	Neoadjuvant chemo → surgery + adjuvant chemo
Any histology with mets (M ₁) = palliative care	
1. Chemo ± radiotherapy	
2. Symptom relief: stents, analgesia	

SURGICAL OPTIONS:

Ivor Lewis oesophagectomy (2 stage → open or keyhole)

Stage 1 (abdominal):

- mobilise / free stomach from blood supply

Stage 2 (thoracic):

- mobilise & resect affected part of oesophagus
- pass 'free' stomach through hiatus & staple to remaining oesophagus
- pylorotomy to improve gastric emptying post-op

NB. Oesophageal surgery = high morbidity & mortality

→ need careful pre-op assessment for suitability

Presents late & POOR PROGNOSIS⁴

Stage	5y Survival
1	53%
2	30%
3	16%
4	0%
Overall	17%

Management requires an MDT approach

Complications of upper GI surgery:

- **Weight loss** – need dietetic support
- **Dysphagia** – due to strictures
- **Reflux**
- **Delayed emptying**

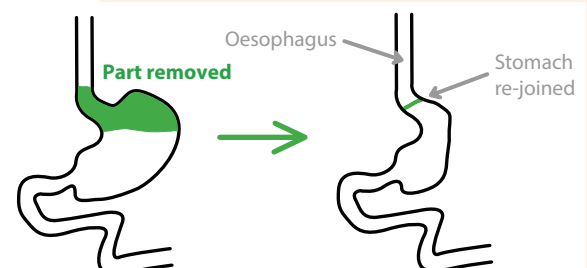


Fig. 3.2 Ivor Lewis oesophagectomy.

⁴Cancer survival by stage at diagnosis for England, 2019. ONS.

⁵NICE (2018) *Oesophago-gastric cancer* [NG83]

Gastric cancer

*prevalence is increasing globally due to increased prevalence of modifiable RFs

Risk factors:

- **Internal:** pernicious anaemia, *H. pylori*, polyps
- **External:** smoking, high salt/nitrate (red meat)
- **Genetic:** Japanese, HNPCC, Group A blood

Presents late & POOR PROGNOSIS⁷

Stage	5y Survival
1	65%
2	36%
3	24%
4	0%
Overall	20%

Any histology with mets = palliative care

1. Chemo ± radiotherapy
2. Symptom relief: stents, bypass, analgesia

Gastrectomy complications:

- Vit B12 / iron deficiency
- Early satiety / weight loss
- Osteoporosis/osteomalacia

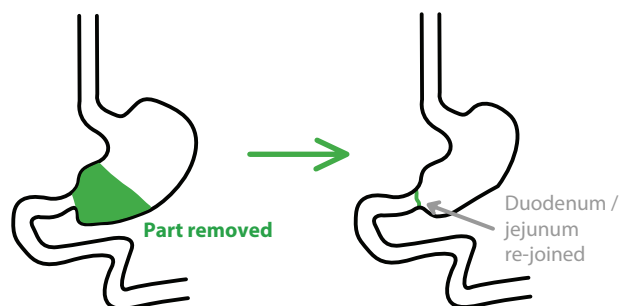


Fig. 3.3 Distal gastrectomy.

→ UK prevalence*: 10 in 100,000 → 5th most common cancer worldwide⁶
 → M:F = 3:1 → Peak age: 50–70y

Types

1. **Adenocarcinoma (85%)**
2. **Other (15%)** – lymphoma, leiomyosarcoma, GISTs

Symptoms

- Epigastric pain / dyspepsia
 - Early satiety
 - N&V, anorexia, weight loss
 - Dysphagia
- } often non-specific & mimic PUD

Investigations

- **OGD & multiple ulcer edge biopsies** – histological grading & location
- **CT chest, abdo, pelvis** – TNM staging (same as oesophageal)
- Endoscopic USS – more detailed T&N staging

Signs O/E

- Epigastric mass (50%)
 - Virchow's node enlargement
 - Hepatomegaly, ascites
 - Jaundice, acanthosis nigricans
- } only in late stage/metastases

Management⁸

Adenocarcinoma

T_{is} or T_{1a} (N₀, M₀)	Endoscopic mucosal resection
T_{1b} (N₀, M₀) or >75y	Direct to surgery
T₂, T₃, T₄ (M₀)	Neoadjuvant chemo → surgery + adjuvant chemo

SURGICAL OPTIONS:

Siewert class	Location	Management
1	1–5cm above GOJ	Oesophagectomy
2	<1cm above or <2cm below GOJ	Oesophagectomy or total gastrectomy
3	2–5cm below GOJ	Total gastrectomy
Distal	Near pylorus	Distal gastrectomy

Total gastrectomy + Roux-en-Y reconstruction:

1. Resection of stomach
2. Connect proximal jejunum to lower oesophagus
3. Reconnect distal duodenum further down jejunum to allow passage of bile

Distal gastrectomy:

1. Resection of distal part of stomach
2. Various reconstruction options (**Roux-en-Y = better outcome but ↑ risk**)

⁶International Agency for Research on Cancer, WHO 2020

⁷Cancer survival by stage at diagnosis for England, 2019. ONS.

⁸NICE (2018) *Oesophago-gastric cancer* [NG83]

Gallbladder disease

- Gallbladder **stores** and **concentrates** bile
- Fatty acids / amino acids in duodenum stimulate **CCK** release
- **CCK stimulates gallbladder contraction** & bile release

Investigations

1. **History & abdo exam** + pregnancy test + urine dip
2. **Bloods:** FBC, CRP/ESR, LFTs, clotting (± amylase)
3. **Imaging:**
 - **USS** (shows GB/duct dilation) → ERCP (Dx & Tx **but invasive**)
 - MRCP (95% sensitive to detect stone) → CT if concerned about tumour

Types of bile stone

1. **CHOLESTEROL** – crystallisation of **excess cholesterol**
2. **PIGMENT** – contain **calcium bilirubinate**
 - **Black:** haemolytic conditions (SCA, malaria)
 - **Brown:** biliary stasis or infection

Risk factors*:

Fat	Female
Fair	Fertile
Forty	FHx

Complications of gallstones

1. **In gallbladder:** biliary colic (cystic duct obstruction), acute cholecystitis, perforation*, carcinoma
*needs emergency cholecystectomy
2. **In bile ducts:** biliary colic (common duct obstruction) → ascending cholangitis or acute pancreatitis
3. **In intestine:** gallstone ileus (stone erodes through gallbladder = **fistula to duodenum**) → intestinal obstruction
AXR shows air in biliary tree

Management⁴

OBSTRUCTION

BILIARY COLIC

= temporary duct obstruction
Systemically well!

Symptoms:

- **Colicky RUQ / diffuse pain** (visceral)
 - ▶ crescendos (stop if stone moves)
 - ▶ radiates to back/shoulder
 - ▶ worse with food (esp. fatty)
- ± **N&V**
- **Obstructive jaundice** if common duct blocked/Mirizzi's

Investigations:

- **Bloods = normal**
- USS/MRCP (shows dilation/stones)

Management:

- Bed rest, fluid, analgesia, NBM
- Elective **cholecystectomy** (by 6w)

INFLAMMATION

ACUTE CHOLECYSTITIS

= long-term *cystic duct* obstruction causes **inflammation of GB wall**
Systemically unwell!

Symptoms:

- Initially:** biliary colic
- With inflammation:** (localised pain)
- Fever & vomiting
 - Severe RUQ pain + **peritonism**
- O/E:** Guarding & rigidity + **Murphy's sign**

Investigations:

- **Bloods:** ↑ WCC, CRP, ESR
- USS/MRCP (dilation, thick GB wall)

Management: ABCDE

- IV fluid, analgesia + **IV ABX**
- Elective **cholecystectomy** (by 1w but ideally within 72h)

INFECTION

- *C. perfringens*
- *Klebsiella*
- *E. coli*

ASCENDING CHOLANGITIS

= long-term *common bile duct* obstruction causes **duct infection**

Symptoms:

Charcot's triad:

1. High swinging **fever** (chills + rigors)
2. RUQ pain
3. Jaundice

Reynolds' pentad:

- + 4. **Confusion**
- + 5. **Shock** (ICU admission)

Investigations:

- **Bloods:** ↑ WCC, CRP, ESR
- **LFTs:** obstructive picture

Management: ABCDE + Sepsis 6

- IV fluids, analgesia + **IV ABX** (e.g. cefuroxime + metronidazole)
- **Emergency ERCP** ± stenting

Key DDx: GORD, PUD, acute pancreatitis, IBD, acute hepatitis, pyelonephritis

Murphy's sign: press over GB – patient has sharp pain during inspiration as peritoneum hits your hand

⁴BMJ Best Practice (2021) Gallstones, acute cholecystitis, acute cholangitis

Courvoisier's law:

Painless, obstructive jaundice with palpable gallbladder = unlikely due to gallstones
 → think **carcinoma of pancreas**

Other gallbladder pathologies**CARCINOMA OF THE GALLBLADDER**

- Uncommon (occurs in elderly)
- Associated with long-standing gallstones

Symptoms:

- RUQ pain
 - Weight loss
 - Obstructive jaundice & palpable mass (late sign)
- Sx occur late (& then mimic chronic cholecystitis)*

Management: poor prognosis as late presentation

- Radical cholecystectomy (± liver resection if affected)

CHOLANGIOCARCINOMA (adenocarcinoma of bile ducts / ampulla)

- Common sites = at ductal confluences
- Mostly in elderly patients
- Can be 2° to PSC/IBD

Symptoms:

- Painless progressive jaundice
 - Weight loss
- Sx occur late & mimic PANCREATIC CANCER*

Management: poor prognosis as late presentation

- Whipple's procedure (if operable)
- Palliative stenting (relieves jaundice & helps gastric emptying)

Anaemia overview

Anaemia is defined as Hb <130g/L in men & <115g/L in women

Causes

1. **↓ RBC production** e.g. IDA (most common), BM disorders, cytotoxic drugs / chemotherapy, CKD, aplastic anaemia
2. **↑ RBC destruction** e.g. SCD, thalassaemias, G6PD deficiency, autoimmune haemolysis
3. **Blood loss** (rare in children) e.g. vWD, Meckel diverticulum

Signs/symptoms

General signs/symptoms

- Fatigue/weakness
- Pallor (conjunctiva)
- SOB/tachycardia/dizziness

Symptoms occur if Hb <60–70g/L

Specific signs/symptoms

- **Koilonychia**: IDA
- **Jaundice**: haemolytic anaemia
- **Leg ulcers**: sickle cell disease
- **Tingling fingers/toes**: B12 deficiency

Investigations

- **FBC** – MCV (size of RBC) & MCH (Hb per RBC), reticulocytes
- **Iron studies** – serum iron & ferritin, TIBC
- **Blood film** – size, shape, colour of red cells
- **Serum bilirubin** – high in haemolysis
- **Hb HPLC or Hb electrophoresis** – shows amount of each Hb type (HbS, HbA, HbF)

Types of haemoglobin

Fetal (HbF): 2 α chains + 2 γ chains → higher O₂ affinity

Adult (HbA): 2 α chains + 2 β chains → lower O₂ affinity

Adults normally have 2 HbA alleles (HbAA). Patients with haemoglobinopathies such as thalassaemia or SCD have at least one abnormal allele, causing non-HbA haemoglobins (e.g. HbSS, HbAS)

Key questions to ask:

1. Isolated anaemia or pancytopenia? (pancytopenia suggests BM failure)
2. What is the MCV?

All patients are screened for anaemia before surgery

- If <100g/L check haematinics and replace if low
- If <60g/L as above, but transfuse if active bleeding

DDx microcytic anaemia: TAILS

- **T**halassaemia (α or β -thalassaemia trait)
- **A**naemia of chronic disease e.g. renal failure
- **I**ron-deficiency anaemia
- **L**ead poisoning
- **S**ideroblastic anaemia

DDx macrocytic anaemia: ABCDEF

- **A**lcohol & liver disease
- **B**12 deficiency
- **C**ompensatory reticulocytosis (blood loss)
- **D**rugs (cytotoxic)
- **E**ndocrine (hypothyroidism)
- **F**olate deficiency

DDx normocytic anaemia: CHARMD

- **C**hronic disease (↓ iron + ↑ ferritin)
- **H**aemolysis
- **A**cute blood loss
- **R**enal anaemia (causing low EPO levels)
- **M**arrow disorder
- **D**eficiencies combined (iron + B12)

Anaemia from reduced RBC production

Dietary advice for IDA

High Fe foods:

- Red meat, liver
- Oily fish
- Pulses, beans, peas
- Fortified cereals
- Leafy, green veg
- Dried fruit / nuts

Vit C (fruit & veg) helps Fe absorption

Foods to avoid:

- Excess cow's milk (only 10% Fe is absorbed)
- Tannin (tea) (inhibits Fe absorption)

Intrinsic factor binds B12 in stomach to enable absorption in the terminal ileum

B12 = coenzyme needed for folate conversion

Folate = needed for RBC synthesis

B12 deficiency can cause peripheral neuropathy, subacute spinal cord degeneration & angular cheilitis

If B12 AND folate deficient, **must replace B12 first** to avoid subacute combined degeneration of the spinal cord

Diagnostic results in RBC aplasia: ↓ Hb, ↓ reticulocytes, normal BR, Coombs test –ve

Must r/o GI bleed in older patients

Iron-deficiency anaemia

→ **most common anaemia worldwide** (especially menstruating females)

Causes:

- **Inadequate intake** – Fe-deficient diet e.g. vegetarian
- **Malabsorption** – coeliac, gastrectomy
- **Increased requirements** – pregnancy
- **Chronic blood loss** – menorrhagia / GI bleed

NB. Ferritin will be raised in inflammation

Diagnosis:

1. **FBC:** ↓ MCV = microcytic
2. **Iron studies:** ↓ serum iron & ↓ serum ferritin, ↑ TIBC (body tries to ↑ Fe uptake)
3. **Blood film:** abnormally shaped, small, hypochromic (pale) RBCs

Management¹:

1. **Determine cause:** thorough Hx & exam → r/o serious causes
 - ▶ OGD/colonoscopy, anti-tTG, menorrhagia Hx
2. Treat underlying cause
3. Dietary advice
4. Oral iron supplements e.g. ferrous sulphate/fumarate
 - ▶ TDS until Hb normal then minimum 3m OD
 - ▶ Can use IV iron if oral not tolerated/absorbed

NB: if no response to Tx consider Ix for other causes (esp. malabsorption)

B12 & folate deficiency

→ **causes pernicious anaemia**

Causes of B12 deficiency:

- **Low dietary intake** – vegan/vegetarian
- **Malabsorption (in terminal ileum)** – e.g. Crohn's, gastrectomy
- **Low intrinsic factor** – e.g. autoimmune (pernicious anaemia)

Causes of folate deficiency:

- **Low dietary intake**
- **Malabsorption (in duodenum/jejunum)** – e.g. coeliac, jejunal resection
- **Increased requirements** – pregnancy, haemolytic anaemia

Diagnosis:

1. **FBC:** ↑ MCV = macrocytic – often >125
2. **Blood film:** hypersegmented neutrophils (>5 lobules) & tear-drop cells
3. **Iron & B12 studies:** ↓ B12, ↓ serum folate, ↓ cobalamin
4. **Intrinsic factor antibodies**

Management²:

- If not pernicious anaemia, **dietary advice**
- IM B12 & folic acid (5mg OD) supplements (4m)
- If pernicious anaemia: **lifelong IM B12** replacement (hydroxocobalamin)

B12 = eggs, fortified cereals, dairy
Folate = broccoli, peas, brown rice

RBC aplasia

→ **failure of RBC synthesis**

Causes:

- **Diamond-Black anaemia** = rare, congenital → raised MCV ± short stature, abnormal thumbs
- **Transient erythroblastopenia** = triggered by viral infection in children
- **Parvovirus B19** – infects young RBCs – only causes RBC aplasia in children/adults with inherited haemolytic anaemia

¹BNF Treatment Summary – Anaemia, Iron Deficiency

²BNF Treatment Summary – Anaemia, Megaloblastic

Spinal cord tracts

Corticobulbar tract innervates each cranial nerve **bilaterally** except for:

1. Facial nerve (CN VII):

- Forehead = bilateral representation
- Branch to lower face = unilateral representation
- UMN lesion spares frontalis

2. Hypoglossal (CN XII):

- Each half of tongue supplied by contralateral corticobulbar tract
- Lesion causes contralateral weakness, so tongue deviates **towards** weak side

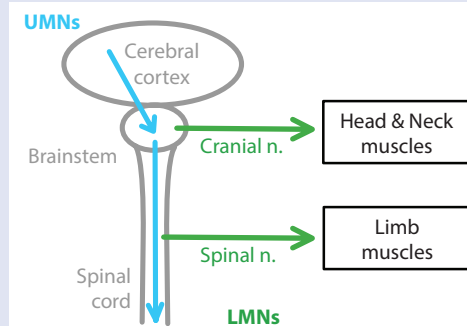


Fig. 7.3 Pathway of UMNs & LMNs.

*Pyramidal weakness:

Upper limbs: extensor muscles weaker than flexors

= results in flexed elbow & wrist

Lower limbs: flexor muscles weaker than extensors

= results in extended knee/ straight leg

Bulbar palsy: LMN lesion causing dysarthria = weakness of muscles supplied by CN IX, X, XII

- Nasal speech / dysarthria
- Hyporeflexia: jaw jerk & gag reflex absent
- Tongue: weak & wasted & fasciculations

The descending spinal tracts

Pyramidal tracts = voluntary control (cerebral cortex → brainstem & spinal cord)

Corticospinal: voluntary movement of **contralateral body**

- Originate in **motor cortex**
- **Decussate in medullary pyramids**
- Synapse with **LMNs in spinal cord**

Corticobulbar: voluntary movement of **face & neck**

- Originate in **motor cortex**
- Terminates in **brainstem**
- Synapse with **cranial nerves**

The ascending tracts

Dorsal column medial lemniscus (DCML)	Spinothalamic	Spinocerebellar
Fine touch, vibration, proprioception (contralateral)	Pain & temperature (contralateral)	Unconscious proprioception (ipsilateral) (awareness of position & movement of body parts in space without conscious thought)

Upper motor neurones vs. lower motor neurone lesions

UMNs: motor cortex → internal capsule → brainstem → spinal cord

LMNs: anterior horn cell → nerve root → peripheral nerve → NMJ → muscle

	Upper motor neurone lesion (brain + spinal cord)	Lower motor neurone lesion (peripheral nerves)
Signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hypertonia Hyper-reflexia Pyramidal weakness* Clonus +ve Babinski Spastic gait 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hypotonia Hypo-reflexia Proximal/distal weakness Wasting Fasciculations
Causes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stroke / brain tumour Spinal tumour / injury Cerebral palsy / MS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peripheral neuropathy (DM, alcohol, drugs) Polio (anterior horn cells) / Guillain-Barré MND Myasthenia gravis

Facial weakness

	Upper motor neurone lesion	Lower motor neurone lesion
Signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contralateral weakness Frontalis spared 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ipsilateral weakness Whole face
Causes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stroke / brain tumour Subdural haematoma MS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bell's palsy GBS (usually bilateral) Infection (HSV, CMV, EBV, Lyme disease) Trauma

Pseudobulbar palsy: bilateral **UMN lesion** causing dysarthria = damage to medullary cranial nerves

- 'Donald Duck' speech (spastic dysarthria)
- **Hyperreflexia:** jaw jerk & gag reflex increased
- **Tongue:** weak & spastic

Dermatomes

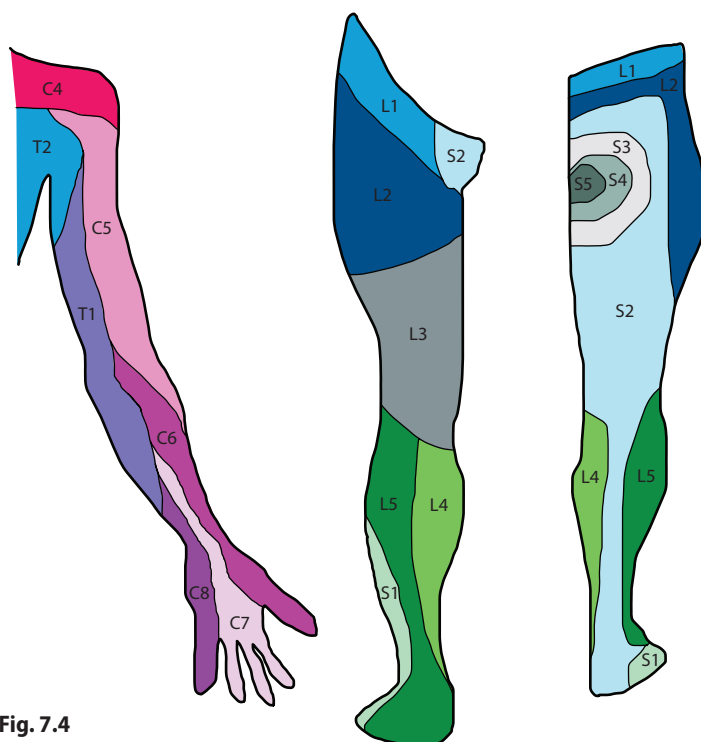


Fig. 7.4

Myotomes

Nerve root	Motor function
C5	Elbow flexion
C6	Wrist extension
C7	Wrist flexion, finger extension, elbow extension
C8	Finger flexion
T1	Finger abduction
L1,2	Hip flexion
L3	Knee extension
L4	Ankle dorsiflexion
L5	Knee flexion, big toe extension
S1	Knee flexion, ankle plantarflexion, big toe flexion

Deep tendon reflex	Nerve roots
Biceps + brachioradialis	C5, C6
Triceps	C7, C8
Knee jerk	L3, L4
Ankle jerk	S1, S2

Focal peripheral nerve lesions

Lesion	Symptoms	Sensory loss	Motor loss	Causes
Median nerve (C5–T1) Carpal tunnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pain/tingling in hand Thenar muscle wasting 	Dorsal & palmar aspect of lateral 3.5 digits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Middle & index fingers (L) Thenar muscles (OAF) Lumbricals Opponens Abductor pollicis brevis Flexor opponens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repetitive motion DM/thyroid RA/OA Pregnancy
Ulnar nerve (C8–T1) Cubital tunnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pain/tingling in hand Weak grip Ulnar claw (paradox) 	Dorsal & palmar aspect of medial 1.5 digits	All small hand movement except LOAF (interossei/lumbricals) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finger abduction & adduction Thumb adduction Little & ring finger flexion Wrist flexion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elbow trauma Idiopathic
Radial nerve (C5–T1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wrist drop 	Dorsal hand & 1st web space	Brachioradialis: Wrist extension Extensor digitorum: Finger extension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Humerus fracture
Brachial plexus (C4–T1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erb's palsy (weakness, sensory loss & muscle atrophy) 	Shoulder & arm	Deltoid, biceps, brachialis, rotator cuff, serratus anterior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Idiopathic Trauma Damage from assisted delivery at birth Compression Inflammatory
Axillary nerve (C5–C6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deltoid wasting 	Regimental badge area	Deltoid: shoulder abduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proximal humerus fracture
Common peroneal nerve (L4–S2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foot drop 	Lateral calf & dorsum of foot	Tibialis anterior: dorsiflexion & eversion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sporting injury (direct trauma near knee) Fibular head fracture Habitual leg crossing

Chronic kidney disease

= progressive & irreversible deterioration of renal function (>3m)

Factors increasing risk of needing RRT

- Younger age
- Male gender
- Lower eGFR
- Higher ACR

Signs/symptoms:

Early stages = **asymptomatic**

- **Anaemia:** pallor, fatigue
- **Bone disease:** osteomalacia/fractures
- **Hyperkalaemia:** palpitations, dizziness, chest pain
- **Fluid overload:** peripheral oedema, SOB
- **Early uraemia:** fatigue, anorexia, N&V, pruritus, hiccups
- **Late uraemia:** confusion
- **Metabolic acidosis:** ↑ HR & RR, vomiting, fatigue, headache
- **Other:** sexual dysfunction = common

**** CKD associates with cardiovascular events & AKI ****

Investigations:

- 1. Urine dip & BP**
 - Urine protein–creatinine ratio for nephrotic syndromes
 - Urine albumin–creatinine ratio (ACR) for CKD
- 2. Bloods:**
 - U&Es – **compare to previous eGFR**
 - Bicarbonate – acid–base balance lost
 - Hb – normocytic anaemia
 - PTH (↑ if bone disease & also ↑ ALP)
 - Glucose (for DM)
 - ANA, ANCA, complement
- 3. USS kidney** (kidneys may be small)
- 4. Renal biopsy** – if still unsure of cause
- 5. CXR** – for pulmonary oedema

Pathogenesis of renal bone disease:

↓ Vit D activation in kidneys = ↓ Ca absorption
= **2° hyperparathyroidism** (↑ PTH)

↑ PTH causes ↑ **osteoclastic activity**
= ↑ Ca resorption from bone to restore serum Ca
= **leaves bone weak**

In kidney transplant patients, parathyroid gland may become autonomous in spite of normal renal function = **tertiary hyperparathyroidism**

Classification

→ use to identify those most at risk of needing RRT

Base on 2 factors:

1. GFR
2. Albuminuria

Persistent albuminuria

A1	A2	A3
<3mg/mmol	3–30mg/mmol	>30mg/mmol

GFR (ml/min/1.73m ²)	G1	≥90			
	G2	60–89			
	G3a	45–59			
	G3b	30–44			
	G4	15–29			
	G5	<15			

Table based on KDIGO AKI staging system.

Causes of deteriorating GFR

Diabetes mellitus (38%)	Glycation of efferent arteriole = ↑ pressure & sclerosis
Hypertension (25%)	Thickened walls of afferent arteriole = hypoperfusion
Chronic glomerulonephritis (16%)	Inflammation & damage to vessels
Chronic pyelonephritis	Urinary reflux or recurrent infection
Obstructive uropathy	Back-up of pressure = hydronephrosis & damage → neurogenic bladder, BPH, malignancy, stones
Polycystic kidney disease (PKD)	→ Auto dominant form presents in adults → Fluid-filled cysts press on nephrons = atrophy → Sx: back pain, headaches, haematuria, HTN

→ **Risk factors for CKD decline:** HTN, DM, smoking, infection, NSAIDs/ACEis

Management of CKD⁴

RISK REDUCTION of CVD: lifestyle factors are important

- 1. BP control:** ACEi/ARB if proteinuria (BP <140/90 **or** <130/80 if diabetic)
- 2. Cholesterol control:** statin
- 3. Comorbidity control:** diabetes control *Advise low salt & phosphate diet*
- 4. Stop smoking**
- 5. Weight management**

TREAT/MANAGE COMPLICATIONS

- 1. Anaemia** – IV iron + EPO stimulating agents (r/o B12/folate deficiency first)
- 2. Bone disease** – vit D & calcium supplements if deficient, phosphate binders
- 3. Oedema** – careful fluid monitoring ± diuretics

⁴NICE (2021) *Chronic kidney disease* [NG203]

MANAGE MEDICATIONS

1. **Stop drugs** that worsen glomerular function / acute nephrotoxics
2. **Alter dose** of medications if GFR is low e.g. stop metformin if GFR <30

REFER TO NEPHROLOGY: if GFR <30 or ↓ >15 in 1y or 5y risk of needing RRT >5% (using kidney failure risk equation⁵)

→ assess & manage symptoms/complications & prep for RRT

Renal replacement therapy options

DIALYSIS: usually started around eGFR 10, unless there are complications

	Haemodialysis	Peritoneal dialysis
Method	Blood pumped out of body through 'artificial kidney'	Dialysate solution infused into peritoneal cavity (peritoneum acts as filtering membrane)
Access	AV fistula / semi-permanent jugular or subclavian catheter	Catheter into peritoneum
Complications	Site infection, hypotension , air embolus, N&V, endocarditis	Peritonitis, catheter problems, hernia, fluid retention, weight gain
Frequency	3 × 4h sessions each week	Continuous ambulatory = 4 × 20min each day while active Automated = overnight (3–5 exchanges over 8–10h)

KIDNEY TRANSPLANT: gold standard for those with end-stage CKD

→ but only 40% of patients with CKD 5 are **suitable**

Process:

- Transplant placed in **iliac fossa** & anastomoses of vessels made
- Usually leave native kidney in place

Post-transplant treatment:

- Lifelong immunosuppression = tacrolimus or ciclosporin **plus** azathioprine/MMF
- 6m of steroids to prevent acute rejection e.g. prednisone
- Aspirin, antihypertensives, PPI, bone protection

Complications:

- **Immediate:** graft thrombosis, ureteric leak/obstruction, bleeding, rejection
- **3–6m:** rejection, HTN, ileus, infections (urinary or respiratory)
- **Long-term:** cancer, interstitial fibrosis (2° to ciclosporin/tacrolimus), cardiac disease, infections

Ethical issue: waiting list of >4500 (avg. wait = 3y)

Points to consider for transplant:

Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ↑ Longevity (80% 10y survival) • ↑ Quality of life (free from dialysis) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medication burden • Immunosuppressive SEs • Frequent hospital visits

ensure patients are fully informed of all options & supported in decision-making

Who is suitable?

- Generally fit for general anaesthetic
- At least 5y left to live
- No underlying malignancy
- No other significant comorbidities
- Good vascular supply to legs

+ a suitable match is found:

→ ABO, tissue type, age & gender

+ Need to assess suitability of donor:

urine dip, U&Es, USS & general fitness

Transplant rejection: 10–20%

- **Often asymptomatic** (concern if rise in Cr)
- **RFs:** non-concordance, drug interactions, poor match
- **Tx:** IV methylprednisolone & ↑ immunosuppressants

⁵Major, et al. (2019) The Kidney Failure Risk Equation for prediction of end stage renal disease in UK primary care. *PLOS Medicine*, 16:e1002955

Pleural effusion

Types of fluid

Empyema: pus (infection)

Chylothorax: lymphatic fluid

Haemothorax: blood (trauma)

Fluid: transudate or exudate

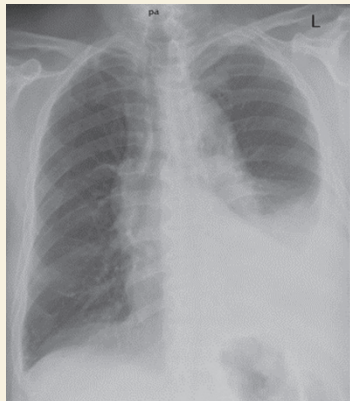


Fig. 9.2 Left-sided pleural effusion.

Accumulation of fluid in pleural cavity

Symptoms

May be asymptomatic

- SOB ± pleurisy
- Sx of underlying cause

Signs

- ↓ Expansion
- Stony dull percussion
- Absent breath sounds
- ↓ Vocal resonance / tactile fremitus
- Tracheal deviation away if massive

Investigations

1. **CXR** – blunted CPAs, homogenous consolidation (only detect if >300ml)

2. **USS** – identify location & volume

3. **Pleural tap (US guidance)***

- Microbiology: MCS
- Clinical chemistry: protein, LDH, glucose, pH
- Cytology: 80% sensitive for malignancy

*1–2 intercostal spaces below upper border of effusion

4. **Further Ix if no obvious cause:**

- Pleural biopsy – r/o malignancy/TB
- CT with contrast – shows pleural thickening

Types of pleural effusion

	Transudate	Exudate
Pathophysiology	Movement of fluid from circulation → pleural space ↑ Capillary hydrostatic pressure or ↓ Capillary oncotic pressure	Production & secretion of fluid into pleural space ↑ Capillary permeability
Causes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congestive heart failure (↑ hydrostatic pressure) • Renal failure (↓ oncotic pressure ↓ albumin) • Liver failure (↓ oncotic pressure ↓ albumin) • Hypothyroidism 	Inflammation: trauma, RA, sarcoid, SLE Infection: pneumonia, TB Infarction: PE, post-MI (Dressler's) Malignancy: 25% of effusions Medication: MTX, amiodarone, phenytoin
Presentation	Bilateral	Unilateral
Fluid	Lower protein, lower LDH <25g/L protein + ↑ LDH	Higher protein, higher LDH >30g/L protein + ↑↑ LDH
Management	Usually improve with Tx of underlying cause → Usually do not need tapping/drainage	Pleural tap all with pneumonic illness or suspected malignancy + effusion Treat cause & drain if moderate/large

LIGHT'S CRITERIA

used to distinguish transudate & exudate if protein 25–35g/L

	Transudate	Exudate
Pleural:serum protein	<0.5	≥0.5
Pleural:serum LDH	<0.6	≥0.6
Pleural fluid LDH	<2/3 upper limit of normal	>2/3 upper limit of normal

Specific management of pleural infection (empyema)²

1. **Pleural tap: pH <7.2, low glucose, high LDH**

- Simple parapneumonic infection = straw colour with no orgs
- Loculated empyema = pockets of semi-solid pus

2. **IV ABX** for minimum 2w

3. **Chest drainage:** if frank pus / organisms cultured / pH <7.2 / no improvement

4. **Decortication (VATS: video-assisted thoracoscopy):** remove restrictive layer of fibrous tissue → if long-standing pus / thickened pleura

Sx of empyema = effusion + FEVER

Organisms causing empyema:

Strep. milleri, *H. influenzae*, *E. coli*, *Staph. aureus*, *Pseudomonas*

²BMJ Best Practice (2021) Pleural effusion

Pneumonia = signs of respiratory tract infection + new shadowing on CXR

Community-acquired pneumonia	Hospital-acquired pneumonia
Primary or secondary to lung disease	>48h after admission or within 10d of discharge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Strep. pneumoniae</i> (80%) • <i>H. influenzae</i> (more common in COPD) • <i>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</i>* (younger patients) • <i>Chlamydia pneumoniae</i>* (elderly patients) • <i>Legionella pneumoniae</i>* • Viral: RSV, influenza, Covid-19 (15%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gram-negatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ <i>Klebsiella</i> ▶ <i>E. coli</i> ▶ <i>Pseudomonas</i> • MRSA / <i>Staph. aureus</i>

*Atypicals

Aspiration pneumonia: in stroke, neuromuscular disease, ↓ GCS

Clinical presentation

- **Fever**, rigors, malaise, anorexia
- **Productive cough** – rusty sputum / haemoptysis
- **Dyspnoea**
- Pleuritic chest pain

On examination

- ↑ RR, ↑ HR, ↑ temp
- ↓ O₂ sats / cyanosis
- ↓ GCS / delirium – if elderly
- **Signs of consolidation**
 - ↓ expansion
 - coarse crackles
 - pleural rub, bronchial breathing
 - dull percussion
 - ↑ vocal resonance

Investigations³

- **Bedside:** basic obs, urine dip
- **Bloods:**
 - ▶ FBC, U&Es, CRP, LFT, glucose
 - ▶ ABG
 - ▶ Atypical serology
- **Microbiology:**
 - ▶ Sputum & blood cultures (guide ABX choice)
 - ▶ Urine antigens (atypical orgs)
 - ▶ Throat swab (if suspect viral)
- **Chest X-ray:** consolidation = **DIAGNOSTIC**

Management³

1. **Conservative:** analgesia, O₂, antipyretics, IV fluids, chest physio
2. **Antibiotics:** follow local antimicrobial guideline (see table below for common examples)

		1st line	If penicillin allergy	Duration & route
CAP	Mild	Amoxicillin 500mg TDS	Doxycycline	5d PO
	Mod	Amoxicillin 500mg TDS + clarithromycin 500mg TDS	Doxycycline + clarithromycin	7d PO
	Severe	Co-amoxiclav + clarithromycin	Levofloxacin + vancomycin	10d IV
HAP	Mild	Doxycycline PO		5d PO
	Severe	Co-trimoxazole PO		5–7d IV
Aspiration		Amoxicillin + metronidazole		5–7d IV

3. **Long-term:** smoking cessation advice, influenza vaccine if high risk

Risk factors for pneumonia:

- Immunocompromised
- Hospitalised
- Chronic lung disease
- Elderly/young/male
- Alcoholic/smoker/IVDU

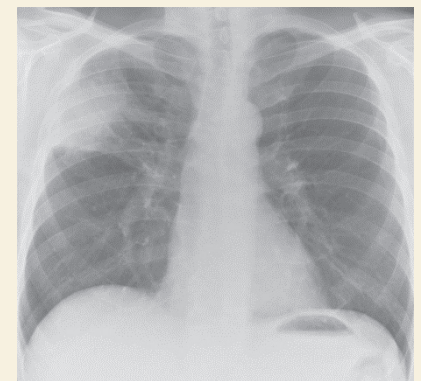


Fig. 9.3 Right upper zone consolidation.

Risk stratification: CURB65 score

C	Confusion	MMSE ≤8 or disorientated
U	Urea	>7mmol/L
R	Resp rate	≥30/min
B	BP	SBP <90 or DBP <60
65	Age	>65y

Mild: 0–1 = home Tx

Mod: 2 = hospital Tx

Severe: ≥3 = consider ICU

Complications of pneumonia:

- Pleural effusion
- Lung abscess
- Resp. failure
- Bronchiectasis
- Sepsis
- Pneumothorax
- Empyema
- Lobe collapse

Repeat CXR after 6w to ensure resolution & no underlying malignancy / lung abnormalities

³BMJ Best Practice (2021) Community acquired pneumonia

Postoperative care

Summary of postoperative problems

Immediate	Delayed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary haemorrhage Shock Low urine output Pain N&V Confusion/delirium 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infection (pneumonia, UTI, wound) Pressure sores Paralytic ileus Secondary haemorrhage (7–10d post) Acute MI (in first 72h) <p>Immobilisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DVT, PE, stroke – give LMWH/aspirin Urinary retention & AKI Chest infections – in elderly/ventilated Atelectasis Pressure sores & muscle wasting

Anastomotic leak

AETIOLOGY: leak of luminal contents from a surgical join → important complication of GI surgery

RISK FACTORS:

Patient risk factors	Surgical risk factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medication (steroids/immunosuppressants) Smoking/alcohol DM, obesity, malnutrition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency surgery Longer intra-operative time Oesophageal–gastric or rectal anastomosis Peritoneal contamination (by free pus or faeces)

CLINICAL PRESENTATION: 5–7d post-op (often due to ischaemia)

- Abdo pain ± peritonism
 - Fever**, tachycardia, new atrial fibrillation
- consider in any patient **failing to progress** post GI resection

INVESTIGATIONS:

- FBC, CRP, U&Es, LFT, clotting, VBG
- Group & save
- CT with contrast = diagnostic**

MANAGEMENT:

- SEPSIS 6** (IV ABX)
- Larger leaks may need drainage or laparoscopic exploration / surgical intervention

Intra-abdominal abscess

RISK FACTORS:

- Intra-abdominal infection (e.g. appendicitis, diverticulitis)
- Recent intra-abdominal surgery

CLINICAL PRESENTATION:

- Fever
- Anorexia/N&V
- Abdominal pain
- Altered bowel habit / prolonged ileus

CT abdo with contrast
= diagnostic

MANAGEMENT:

- IV ABX + drainage (+ send fluid for culture)
- May need to return to theatre

Common sources of post-op pyrexia & infection

Chest (infection)
Catheter (UTI)
Cut (infection)
Cannula (infection)
Calves (DVT)
Central line (infection)
Collections (abdo/pelvis)

1–3d: respiratory
3–5d: urinary
5–7d: wound/abscess/leak

Ix: blood cultures, CXR, urine dip / MCS, cannula site, surgical wound swab, CT/USS of surgical site

Start SEPSIS 6 if potential sepsis
(qSOFA score ≥2 / clinical judgement)

Paralytic ileus

AETIOLOGY: reduced intestinal motility → very common following abdo/pelvic surgery

RISK FACTORS:

Patient risk factors	Surgical risk factors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased age Electrolyte derangement (e.g. Na^+, K^+ and Ca^{2+}) Neurological disorders (e.g. dementia/Parkinson's) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of anti-cholinergic/opioid medication Pelvic/abdominal surgery Extensive intra-operative intestinal handling Peritoneal contamination (by free pus or faeces)

CLINICAL PRESENTATION:

- Failure to pass faeces/flatus
- Abdo distension & **absent bowel sounds**
- N&V

Ix are done to rule out more serious pathologies

MANAGEMENT:

- IV fluids & daily bloods (electrolytes)
- Encourage mobilisation
- Review analgesia (opiates)** in conjunction with pain team
- Consider if need to be NBM ± NG tube (remove stomach contents to reduce vomiting)

INVESTIGATIONS:

- FBC, CRP, U&Es
- Electrolytes (Ca^{2+} , PO_4^- , Mg^{2+})
- Consider imaging:** AXR ± CT (to rule out other pathology e.g. obstruction)

Post-op haemorrhage

Primary bleed – within intra-operative period → resolved during operation & close monitoring post-op

Reactive bleed – within 24h of operation → usually a missed vessel/slipped ligature

Secondary bleed – 7–10d post-op → usually erosion of a vessel 2° to infection

SIGNS/SYMPTOMS: tachycardia, tachypnoea, dizziness, reduced urine output (NB: hypotension = **late sign**)

INVESTIGATIONS: thorough examination for signs of bleeding/swelling/dicolouration/tenderness/peritonism

MANAGEMENT:

- ABCDE** → IV fluid resuscitation + direct pressure on bleeding site if visible
- Urgent senior review** → may need to return to theatre
- Urgent blood transfusion** – if moderate/severe bleeding (**activate major haemorrhage protocol if necessary**)

Urinary retention

PRESENTATION:

- Reduced output
- Suprapubic mass/pain

INVESTIGATIONS:

- USS bladder (residual volume)
- Kidney function: eGFR, U&Es

MANAGEMENT:

- Withdraw causative agents
- Catheter**

Work-up for AKI:

- Fluid status
- Urine dip
- FBC, CRP, U&Es, LFT
- USS KUB

More detail on haemorrhagic shock in Chapter 16: Critical illness

Risk factors for urinary retention:

- >50y
- Spinal/epidural
- Neuro comorbidity
- Paralytic ileus
- Pelvic/uro surgery
- Opiates, antimuscarinics
- Infection/sepsis
- Constipation

General overview

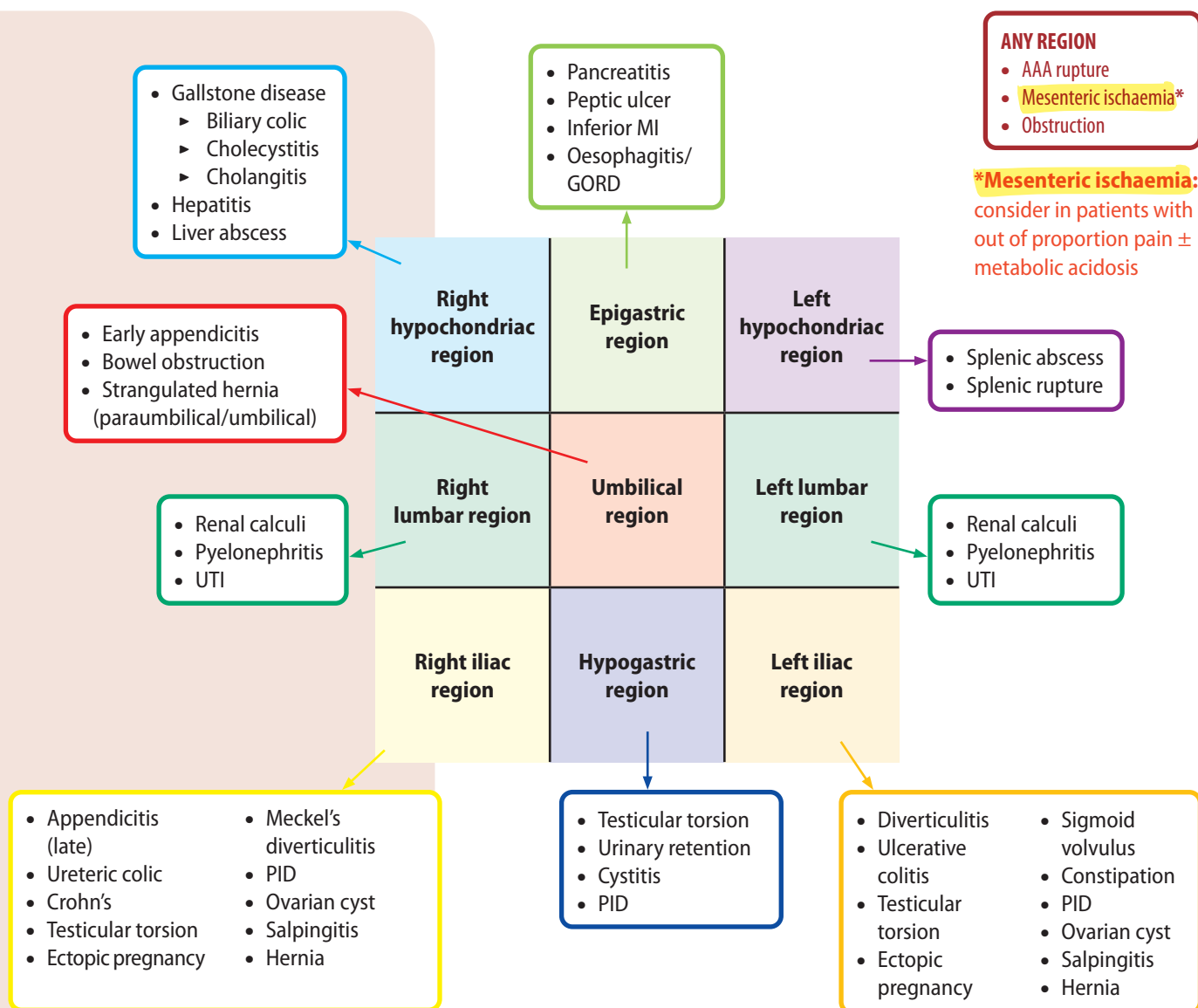


Fig. 11.1 This diagram should be used as a guide to the differentials of acute abdominal pain. It is important to note that any of the mentioned pathologies can present with pain in any area of the abdomen, and thus it is important to correlate location of pain with other clinical signs and investigations, and not to rule out differentials based on the location of pain alone.

Medical causes of acute abdominal pain

- DKA
- UTI
- Basal lobe pneumonia
- Poisoning/overdose
- Addison's disease
- Hypercalcaemia
- Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis
- Mesenteric adenitis
- Constipation

Patterns of pain

Type of pathology			
Inflammatory	Obstructive	Perforation	Visceral
Peritonitic pain → fever, tachycardia → ↑ WCC, ESR, CRp	Colicky pain (waves of pain) → vomiting, constipation → distension, tinkling sounds	Sudden localised then peritonitic pain → shock (↑ HR, RR, ↓ BP) → N&V	Poorly localised pain (referred) → specific Sx e.g. jaundice

Surgery

Peritonitic pain = worse on inspiration & movement → lie still, shallow breaths, **rigidity & guarding**

Investigations & management

INVESTIGATIONS:

- **Obs:** BP, HR, RR, sats, temp, ECG
- **Pregnancy test:** in all females of child-bearing age
- **Bloods:** FBC, U&Es, LFT, CRP, amylase, glucose, clotting, ABG (lactate)
- **Urinalysis:** protein, nitrates, leukocytes, blood, glucose, pH
- **Imaging:** USS, erect CXR, abdo CXR, CT
- **Specialist tests:** MRCP/ERCP, MRI, barium swallow, OGD, colonoscopy
→ not always indicated

INITIAL MANAGEMENT: early senior input if concerned

- **ABCDE + targeted Mx of suspected cause**

Things to consider:

- Nutritional and feeding status – keep NBM if surgery likely soon or vomiting
- Hydration and fluid balance – IV or oral fluid maintenance, consider catheter
- Are antibiotics indicated? – signs consistent with infection
- Investigations to guide/aid management – blood cultures, ABG, G&S, CXR, ECG
- Is blood transfusion / major haemorrhage protocol required?
- Is theatre / surgical intervention needed? – NBM, consent, book theatre slot

IMAGING INDICATIONS:

X-ray	Abdo USS	CT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obstruction • Toxic megacolon • Foreign body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biliary pathologies • Kidneys, ureter, bladder • Gynae pathologies • Appendix (in a female patient, no role in male) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAA/vascular • Malignancy/mass • Complications of obstructions • Appendix if >50y

CONSIDERATIONS FOR SURGERY:

Patient health:

- Anaesthetic review
- Comorbidities/frailty
- **Ceiling of care:** ReSPECT form / DNACPR
- **Morbidity/mortality calculation** e.g. P-POSSUM score

Patient wishes:

- Current wishes
- Advance directives / ReSPECT forms
- Discussion with family

NB: the decision to operate is a complicated one and many factors should be considered.

See Chapter 16: Critical illness (and Chapter 10: Anaesthetics in the companion Clinical Specialties book) for further details.

NB: Not all acute abdominal pathologies present with pain – often absent in the elderly, children, diabetics & pregnant women

Amylase can be raised in some pathologies other than pancreatitis e.g. perforated duodenum

Erect CXR: may show air under diaphragm; **however**, a negative erect CXR does **not** exclude pneumoperitoneum

ReSPECT = Recommended Summary Plan for Emergency Care and Treatment, a patient-held form

Colorectal cancer

→ most = adenocarcinomas

Familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP):

Auto dominant mutation in APC gene

- **Hundreds of polyps**
- Presents at **35–45y** (consider if <50y with colorectal cancer)
- Colonoscopy every **2y** from **25 to 75y**

HNPCC / Lynch syndrome:

Auto dominant mutation in DNA repair genes

- Cancers of colon, endometrium, ovary, stomach, bladder, brain, skin
- Presents **>40y** (consider if <50y with colorectal cancer)
- Colonoscopy every **2y** from **25 to 75y**

NB: non-polyposis condition (no polyps present)

Amsterdam criteria to Dx

Bowel cancer screening programme³:

qFIT (quantifiable faecal immunochemical test)

- if >120mcg/g refer for colonoscopy to remove any polyps

Every 2y from the age of 50y

May present as an acute emergency:

- Bowel obstruction
- Bowel perforation
- Extreme pain

Red flags for 2ww referral⁴:

1. ≥40y with unexplained weight loss & abdo pain
2. ≥50y with unexplained rectal bleeding
3. ≥60y with altered bowel habit **or** IDA
4. Occult blood present when faeces tested

Also consider if:

- Rectal or abdominal mass
- ≤50y with rectal bleeding and any of:
 - ▶ Abdominal pain
 - ▶ Altered bowel habit
 - ▶ Weight loss
 - ▶ IDA

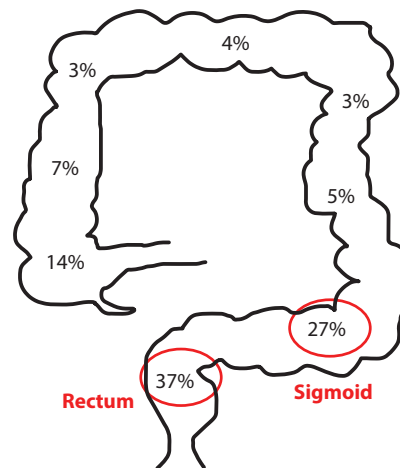
- **3rd most common cancer**
- **2nd most common cause of cancer deaths**
- **Peak age: >60y**
- **M>F**
- **1 in 30 risk**

Risk factors

- **Polyps** (UC, HNPCC, FAP) → **identify & remove**
- **Age** (90% are aged >50 y)
- **Diet** – low fibre, high fat, processed meat
- **Smoking/alcohol/obesity**
- **IBD** (UC especially)
- **Genetics** (FAP & HNPCC / Lynch syndrome)
- **FHx**

Polypectomy + follow-up endoscopy (complications = bleeding & perforation)

Clinical presentation



Liver = common site of colorectal cancer metastases

Fig. 12.4 Sites of colorectal cancer.

Right side	Left side	Rectal
= Late presentation • Weight loss / fatigue • IDA ± Abdo pain/mass	• Weight loss / fatigue • Change in bowel habit • Obstruction • Blood-streaked stools ± Abdo pain/mass	• Weight loss / fatigue • Tenesmus • Bright PR bleed • DRE: palpable mass

→ 20% present with signs of **disseminated disease** e.g. liver mets = jaundice

Investigations

1. **DRE**
2. **Bloods** – FBC (for IDA), LFTs, U&Es
3. **Tumour marker:** CEA (not specific – use for monitoring)
4. **Colonoscopy & biopsy = gold standard**
5. **MRI** – if rectal cancer
6. **CT (chest, abdo, pelvis)** – for TNM staging

Classification & staging

Stage	Duke's stage	Features	5y survival ⁵
1	A	Mucosa only	90–95%
2	B1	Into muscularis	80–85%
	B2	Through wall	
3	C1	T2 + nodes	60–65%
	C2	T3 + nodes	
4	D	Distant mets	<11%

Duke's criteria or TNM staging

³Bowel cancer screening programme (www.gov.uk/guidance/bowel-cancer-screening-programme-overview)

⁴NICE (2015, updated 2021) *Suspected cancer: recognition and referral* [NG12]

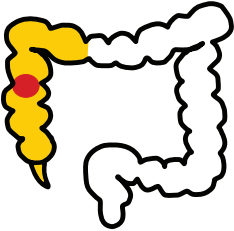
⁵Cancer survival by stage at diagnosis for England, 2019. ONS.

Management of colorectal cancer⁶

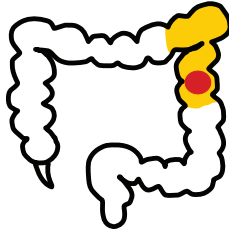
→ colectomy + 'en bloc' lymph node removal ± chemotherapy

Different levels of resection: ● = location of tumour

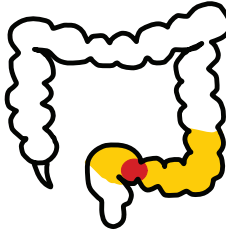
Left hemicolectomy



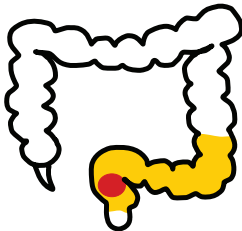
Right hemicolectomy



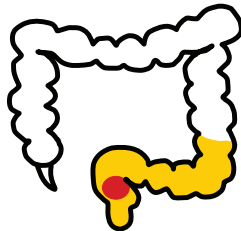
Sigmoid colectomy



Anterior resection



Abdominoperineal resection



Panproctocolectomy

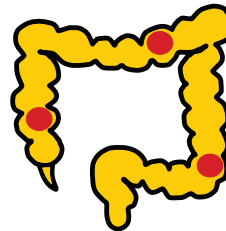


Fig. 12.5

MANAGEMENT OF OBSTRUCTING COLON CANCER: emergency

1. ABCDE
2. Analgesia + NG tube decompression
3. CT scan if no small bowel distension = competent ileocaecal valve = BAD
4. Endoscopic stenting **or** colectomy (often with stoma) → colectomy type depends on obstruction location

Management of rectal cancer⁶

1. **Total mesorectal excision** (removal of rectum)
 - **Low tumours** <5cm above anus: abdominoperineal excision (resect + stoma)
 - **Higher tumours** >5cm from anus: anterior resection (resect + anastomosis)
2. ± **Chemotherapy** ± **radiotherapy**

Colorectal cancer follow-up

Follow-up for 5y post-surgery

1. **CEA** – check every 6m
2. **CT CAP** – annually
3. **Colonoscopy** – at 1 & 5y

20–30%
recurrence

MDT input
including stoma nurse / specialist nurse

Lymph drainage:

- Ascending & transverse drain to **superior mesenteric LNs**
- Descending & sigmoid drain to **inferior mesenteric LNs**
- Rectum (above pectinate line) to **internal iliac LNs**

Hartmann's

= sigmoid colectomy with colostomy (stoma formation)

Panproctocolectomy

= if synchronous cancer or inflammatory bowel disease

Stoma formation:

Elective or emergency

Decision depends on:

- location of resection
- indication for operation
- patient comorbidities
- patient lifestyle/preference

⁶NICE (2020, updated 2021) *Colorectal cancer* [NG151]

Chronic peripheral arterial disease

Causes

1. **Atherosclerosis:** DM, smoking, age, male, HTN, obesity, inactivity, cholesterol
2. **Vasculitis:** Buerger's disease → common in **young, heavy smokers**
3. **Fibromuscular dysplasia** → non-inflammatory arterial wall thickening
4. **Other:** cystic adventitial disease, iliac endofibrosis, popliteal artery entrapment

Pathogenesis: endothelial dysfunction → inflammation → macrophages → fatty streaks
→ plaque → rupture → platelet adherence → thrombus

Signs and symptoms

	Intermittent claudication	Ischaemic rest pain	Peripheral neuropathy Often coexists alongside PAD in DM
Pathology	Insufficient perfusion during exercise	Constant insufficient perfusion	Damaged peripheral nerves
Symptoms	Cramping muscle pain → on exercise (limits walking*) → relieved by rest → reproduced walking same distance	Continuous, severe, burning/aching → worse at night → relieved by dangling leg out of bed → relieved by walking on a cold floor	Tingling/numbness ± pain → glove & stocking distribution → no relief dangling foot / cold floor → prone to wounds = infection risk
Signs	*Claudication distance • Absent/weak peripheral pulses • Cold, pale, hairless legs • Buerger's angle <20° (angle leg raised before pallor)		• Peripheral pulses present • No pallor with Buerger's

Ischaemic rest pain >2w
+ ABPI <0.4 or TP <30mmHg
= **critical limb-threatening ischaemia (CLTI)**
can cause development of **ulcers & gangrene** (↑ risk if DM)
& needs **urgent** Ix & Tx to prevent limb loss

Infection more likely if coexisting PAD
Leriche syndrome: occluded distal aorta, iliac & femoro-popliteal vessels
→ **bilateral buttock/thigh pain** ± **erectile dysfunction**

DDx of intermittent claudication

- **Spinal stenosis**
- **Venous claudication**
 - ▶ **bursting** pain from **start** of walking
 - ▶ relieved by **elevation**
- **Sciatica** = shooting pain
- **Popliteal artery entrapment**
 - ▶ normal pulses
 - ▶ younger, active, Sx when exercising

Investigations

→ needs full cardiovascular screen

1. **History & examination:** peripheral vascular exam + BP, ECG
2. **Bloods:** FBC, lipids
3. **ABPI ± treadmill test**
4. **Duplex USS:** show site & degree of stenosis = **non-invasive**
5. **MR/CTA:** image larger aorto-iliac vessels = **invasive**

Management¹⁰

MEDICAL

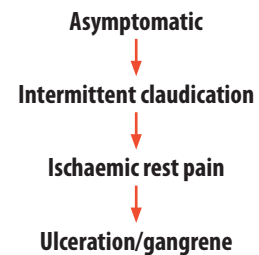
Action is based on severity of symptoms

- **Lifestyle:** stop smoking, weight loss, exercise programmes (weekly for 3m)
- **Optimise comorbidities:** HTN, DM, cholesterol (high dose **statin**)
- **Antiplatelets:** 75mg clopidogrel (or 2.5mg rivaroxaban BD + 75mg aspirin)
- **Vasoactive drugs:** consider use in claudicants e.g. naftidrofuryl or cilostazol

⁹Cronenwett JL & Johnston KW (2014) *Rutherford's Vascular Surgery*, 8th edition. Elsevier Health Sciences

¹⁰European Society for Vascular Surgery (2019) *Clinical practice guideline on management of chronic limb-threatening ischaemia*

Fontaine classification:



Intermittent claudication	Spinal stenosis
Fixed claudication distance	Leg pain may be present at rest ± back pain
Not precipitated by ↑ time standing	Worsened by ↑ time standing
Worse walking uphill	Better walking uphill / bending forward
O/E: absent peripheral pulses	O/E: pulses present but neurological Sx

$$ABPI_{\text{right}} = \frac{\text{right ankle pressure}}{\text{highest brachial pressure}}$$

ABPI	Interpretation ⁹	Action
>1.3	Calcification (diabetes)	TBPI (toe BPI)
1–1.3	Normal	No action
0.4–0.9	Mild–moderate PAD (intermittent claudication)	Routine referral
<0.4	Severe PAD (rest pain)	Urgent referral
<0.3	Impending gangrene	

Surgery

Common sites of atherosclerosis

- Coronary arteries
- Major branches of the aortic arch
- Visceral branches of abdo aorta
- Terminal abdominal aorta + branches

*Good collateral blood supply so symptoms only likely to occur if ≥ 2 vessels affected

Risk factors for chronic mesenteric vascular occlusive disease: as for all arterial disease (+ typically females $>60y$)

Complications:

- Malabsorption / weight loss
- Bowel infarction

*If not suitable for endovascular intervention, endovascular intervention failed, or young with complex non-atherosclerotic lesions

Presentation of gut ischaemia:**Triad of Sx: clinical diagnosis**

1. Out of proportion pain
2. Diarrhoea &/or vomiting
3. Source of embolus e.g. AF

SURGICAL → consider in more severe cases or where medical treatment has failed

- Percutaneous transluminal angioplasty (PTA) or stenting
- Surgical reconstruction (bypass graft)
- Amputation = **last resort**

Chronic mesenteric vascular occlusive disease

→ atherosclerosis of **SMA, coeliac trunk & IMA***, causing inadequate perfusion for digestion → 'gut claudication'

CLINICAL PRESENTATION: (at least 3m duration)

- **Postprandial epigastric pain:** 10min to 3h after eating
- Gross weight loss & fear of eating (but appetite unaffected)
- Non-specific GI symptoms: altered bowel habits, N&V
- \pm other vascular comorbidities e.g. HTN, DM, smoking etc.

INVESTIGATIONS: diagnosis of exclusion (extensive GI examination needed to r/o other causes)

- History & examination: may have **epigastric bruit & tenderness**
- Routine bloods: often normal → may be nutritional deficiencies
- Duplex ultrasound of mesenteric vessels
- **CT angiography** → diagnostic

MANAGEMENT¹¹: **urgent** if significant weight loss, diarrhoea \pm continuous pain

1. **Modify risk factors:** diet & exercise, stop smoking
2. **Antiplatelet** (75mg clopidogrel) & **high dose statin** (e.g. 80mg atorvastatin)
3. **Percutaneous mesenteric stenting:** less invasive than surgery
4. **Surgery:** bypass graft*

SMA is the most important vessel to keep patent

Other causes of gut ischaemia

ACUTE OCCLUSIVE MESENTERIC ISCHAEMIA: due to embolism

Sx: severe, sudden abdominal pain

RF: AF, vascular disease

Ix: negative D-dimer can rule out → **do not use lactate to diagnose or rule out**

Mx: surgical embolectomy \pm retrograde stenting; may need bowel resection

NON-OCCLUSIVE MESENTERIC ISCHAEMIA (NOMI): hypoperfusion causes ischaemia despite patent mesenteric vessels

Sx: severe abdominal pain

Causes: vasopressors, cocaine, abdominal compartment syndrome (ACS), dialysis, severe burns, cardiac surgery

Mx: surgical/endovascular revascularisation \pm treatment of ACS with decompressive laparotomy

ISCHAEMIC COLITIS: acute, transient reduction in blood supply to large bowel

Sx: severe pain \pm bloody stools

Causes: low BP / shock, thromboembolism, \uparrow age, cocaine

Mx: supportive \pm colectomy if peritonitic

¹¹European Society for Vascular Surgery (2017) *Clinical practice guideline on management of the diseases of mesenteric arteries and veins*

Bladder outlet obstruction

Common causes

- BPH
- Prolapse
- Post-incontinence surgery
- Bladder calculi
- Urethral strictures
- Malignancy (bladder/urethral/prostatic)
- External compression
- Neurological disease

Clinical presentation

1. **Lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS)** rapid onset
2. **Acute urinary retention:** suprapubic pain, palpable bladder, anuria
3. **Chronic urinary retention:** LUTS, renal impairment, palpable bladder, overflow incontinence, large residual urine volume

Voiding symptoms	Storage symptoms
Hesitancy Poor flow Post-void dribbling Dysuria (sensation of incomplete emptying)	Frequency Urgency ± urge incontinence ‘FUN’ Nocturia (bedwetting / overflow incontinence)
Present in obstruction	Present if bladder dysfunction (can be 2° to chronic obstruction)

Bladder calculi

PATHOGENESIS: crystallisation of minerals in urine if it becomes concentrated (if incomplete emptying / urine stasis)

Often uric acid or calcium stones (or struvite if UTI-related)

CAUSES:

Outlet obstruction	Neurogenic retention	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BPH / prostate carcinoma • Bladder tumour • Urethral stricture • Prolapse (in women) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stroke / spinal cord injury • Spina bifida • Diabetes • Augmentation cystoplasty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infection (UTIs) • Dehydration • Foreign body / catheter • Passage of renal calculi into bladder

CLINICAL PRESENTATION:

- **LUTS:** voiding & storage
- **Dysuria & haematuria** at end of stream
- Lower abdo pain
- ± recurrent UTI

INVESTIGATIONS:

- **Hx & exam:** abdo & pelvic + DRE
- **Bloods:** FBC, CRP, U&Es, Ca, PO₄, urate, glucose, VBG (HCO₃)
- **Urine dip & MCS** – r/o infection
- **Basic imaging:** USS
- **Specialist imaging:** CT KUB

MANAGEMENT⁷:

Transurethral cystolitholapaxy

1. Cystoscope passed up urethra to identify stones
2. Crush stones or fragment with laser / pneumatic device
3. Bladder irrigation to remove fragments

OR Open cystolithotomy = surgical removal of bladder stones via a lower abdominal incision

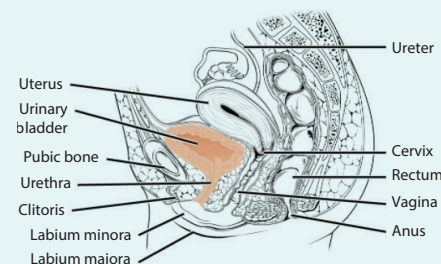


Fig. 15.4 Female genitourinary anatomy.

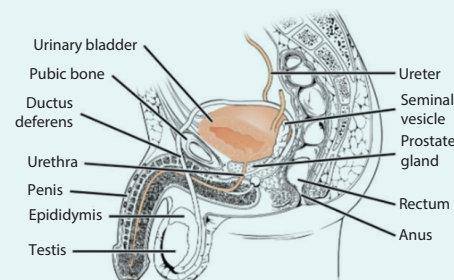


Fig. 15.5 Male genitourinary anatomy.

IPSS: score/questionnaire to determine how much symptoms impact daily life

Management of acute urinary retention:

1. **ABCDE**
2. Bloods: FBC, U&Es (deranged U&Es = HPCR → need USS KUB & urology R/V)
3. **Catheter** (3-way if haematuria)
4. Full Hx and examination (including DRE & neuro exam)
5. Monitor fluid and electrolyte balance

Bladder calculi increase risk of bladder cancer

⁷ European Society of Urology (2021) Guidelines on bladder stones

Chronic urinary retention

Chronic obstruction can lead to **chronic urinary retention** → gradual stretching of bladder over years (painless)

- **Symptoms:** asymptomatic or LUTS, palpable bladder, overflow incontinence, large residual volume of urine
- **Complications:** UTIs, calculi, high pressure chronic retention (HPCR) → renal impairment & hydronephrosis

Possible complications of TURP:

Acute: bleeding, UTI

Chronic: retrograde ejaculation, impotence, incontinence, bladder neck stenosis / urethral stricture

Benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH)

→ 50% of over 50s

→ affect transitional zone of prostate

PATHOGENESIS: occurs **with age** due to **androgens** stimulating **increase in number of prostate cells**

CLINICAL PRESENTATION:

- **Voiding symptoms** ± secondary storage symptoms
- ± **Haematuria**
- **Enlarged, smooth prostate** on DRE
- **Acute retention** (sometimes occurs = rapid & painful)

INVESTIGATIONS:

1. **History & examination:** IPSS score & **remember DRE**
2. **Urinalysis:** dip & MCS
3. **Uroflowmetry:** <10ml/sec suggests obstruction
4. **Bloods:** including PSA
5. **Transrectal USS + biopsy:** definitive diagnosis

MANAGEMENT⁸: depends on symptom severity

Mild	Moderate	Severe
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reassurance 2. Lifestyle (fluid intake) 3. Follow-up 	Pharmacotherapy <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alpha blockers (e.g. tamsulosin) = relax smooth muscle → SEs: retrograde ejaculation, postural hypotension, dizziness, headache 2. ± 5-alpha-reductase inhibitors (e.g. finasteride) = inhibits testosterone → DHT conversion → pros: ↓ prostate size → cons: take 6w to 6m to work → SEs: loss of libido, impotence 3. ± Anti-cholinergics (e.g. oxybutynin/solifenacin) In combination with above to treat 2° storage LUTS 	Surgery: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TURP = gold standard 2. Other: e.g. laser/steam treatment 3. Prostatic artery embolisation 4. Self-catheterisation / long-term catheter

⁸ NICE (2010, updated 2015) *Lower urinary tract symptoms in men* [CG97]

Electrolyte abnormalities

Hyperglycaemia (DKA & HHS)

DIAGNOSIS:

DKA	HHS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hyperglycaemia: random BG >11mmol/L Ketosis: capillary ketones >3mmol/L or urinary ketones ++ Acidosis: HCO_3^- <15 or pH <7.35 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Profound hyperglycaemia: random BG >30mmol/L No ketosis & pH >7.3 High osmolality: >320mosmol/kg

MANAGEMENT OF HYPERGLYCAEMIC HYPEROSMOLAR STATE (HHS)¹

- ABCDE** & confirm Dx with lab results & osmolality (VBG)
- IV FLUIDS** 0.9% saline (infusion over 24h)
- Do not start insulin** (until rate of fall in glucose is <5mmol/L per hour)
→ then give fixed rate insulin at **half dose of DKA** (0.05 units/kg/h)
- K⁺ replacement with KCl** if K⁺ drops to <5.5mmol/L
- Prophylactic anticoagulation** – LMWH for full duration of admission

MANAGEMENT OF DIABETIC KETOACIDOSIS (DKA)²

- ABCDE**
- Confirm Dx with lab results** (VBG)
- Consider HDU if:**
 - CBK >6mmol/L
 - HCO_3^- <5mmol/L
 - pH <7.0
 - GCS <12

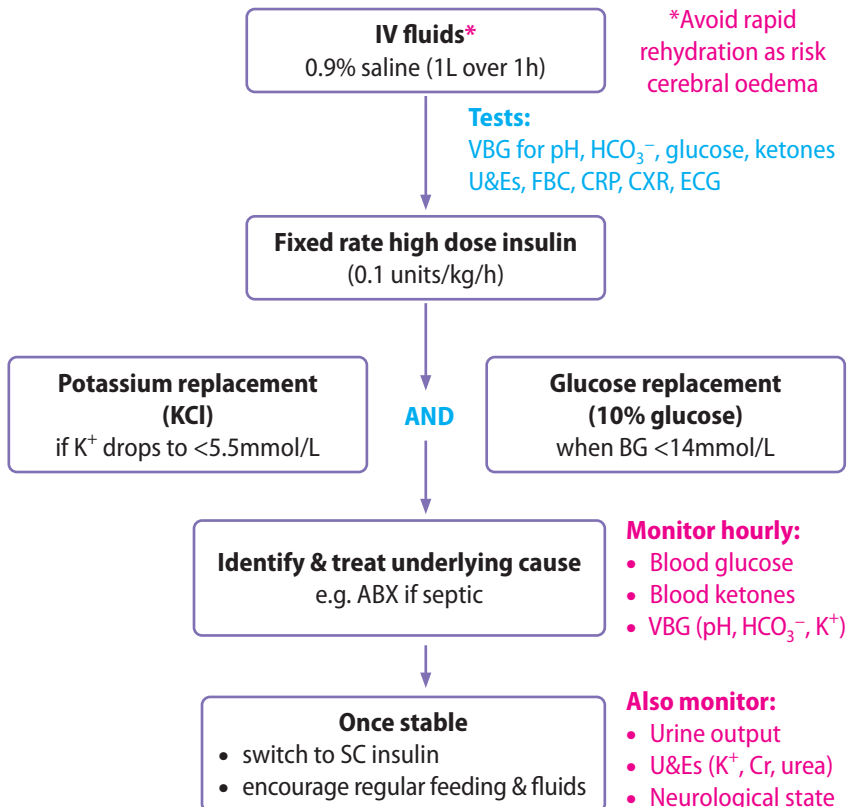


Fig. 17.2 DKA management in adults.

¹Diabetes UK (2012) *The management of hyperosmolar hyperglycaemic state (HHS) in adults with diabetes*

²Diabetes UK (2021) *The management of diabetic ketoacidosis in adults*

Hypoglycaemia³

CAUSES:

- Reduced oral intake
- Intense exercise
- Binge drinking
- Taking too much insulin (if diabetic)

Hypoglycaemia = blood glucose <4mmol/L

SYMPTOMS:

- Irritable, anxious, confused
- Hungry or nauseous
- Shaky, dizzy, light-headed
- Seizures if severe

MANAGEMENT:

1. Oral rapid-acting glucose **or** IV glucose 100ml 20% / IM glucagon 1mg
2. Long-acting carbohydrate e.g. toast (once CBG >4mmol/L)
3. **Look for cause** (document, monitor and get specialist review if needed)

Hyperkalaemia

CAUSES:

- CKD / renal failure
- Drugs (ACEis/ARBs, NSAIDs, spironolactone, potassium supplements)
- Burns / trauma / tissue injuries
- Hormonal disorders e.g. Addison's

Hyperkalaemia = $K^+ > 5.2$ mmol/L

Severe hyperkalaemia = $K^+ > 6$ mmol/L

SYMPTOMS:

- Chest pain / palpitations
- Dizziness/weakness
- Abdominal pain / vomiting

INVESTIGATIONS:

- U&Es
- ECG – tented T waves, flattened P wave, shortened QT interval

MANAGEMENT:

1. 10ml 10% calcium gluconate
2. IV insulin + 25g glucose
3. Salbutamol nebs
4. Treat cause

Neck & back pain

Red flags: need urgent MRI

- New onset in <20y or >55y
- Constant night pain
- Progressive motor weakness
- Thoracic back pain
- Saddle anaesthesia
- Bladder/bowel incontinence
- Hx of trauma/cancer
- Unexplained weight loss
- Fever
- Steroid use
- Recent infection

Differentials of neck/back pain

Structural	Inflammatory	Destructive	Metabolic	Referred pain
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanical • Disc prolapse • Spinal stenosis • Spondylolisthesis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spondyloarthropathies • Sacroiliitis • Polymyalgia rheumatica 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malignancy (1° or 2°) • Infection (discitis, osteomyelitis, TB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Osteoporosis • Osteomalacia • Paget's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major viscera • Uro-genitary • Aorta • Hip

Cervical radiculopathies

CERVICAL SPONDYLOSIS → cervical radiculopathy caused by age-related degenerative changes to spine

- Ageing causes **disc degeneration** (dehydration & flattening) = ↓ shock absorption
- Results in bony changes of vertebrae → **osteophyte development**
- Osteophytes '**pinch**' nerve roots as they leave spinal canal
- **May develop into myelopathy**

Symptoms:

- Pain in neck (radiating down arm as a 'dull ache'/'toothache') → '**brachial neuralgia**'
- Tingling/numbness in one dermatome
- ± Weakness in one arm

On examination:

- Pain reproduced with **lateral neck flexion towards affected side**
- **Motor signs:** modest upper muscle weakness → '**Spurling sign**'
- **Sensory signs:** reduced pin-prick sensation discrimination (in one dermatome)
- **LMN signs:** hyporeflexia, hypotonia

Diagnosis: usually clinical

→ **Neurological examination:** myotomes, dermatomes, reflexes

→ **MRI** if no improvement / considering surgery

Management: mostly self-limiting in 6–12w

1. Conservative:

- Rest, physiotherapy, analgesia (NSAIDs or neuropathic – TCAs)
- Hard collar for neck immobilisation

2. Surgical:

- ACDF (anterior cervical discectomy & fusion) if persistent/worsening/severe Sx

CERVICAL DISC PROLAPSE = seen in those aged 30–40y; usually Hx of mild neck trauma

Symptoms:

- Pain in neck
- Tingling/numbness/paraesthesia in one dermatome of arm
- ± weakness in one arm

Management:

- 1. Conservative:** rest, physiotherapy, analgesia (NSAIDs or neuropathic – TCAs)
- 2. Surgical:** microdiscectomy

Investigation:

→ **Neurological examination:** myotomes, dermatomes, reflexes

→ **MRI** → recommended for cervical spine (assess need for surgery)

Radiculopathies = conditions where 'pinched' nerve roots cause **pain, paraesthesia, weakness** in a **dermatomal distribution (unilateral)**

→ **LMN signs** (hyporeflexia, hypotonia)

Myelopathies = conditions where compressed spinal cord causes **pain, paraesthesia, weakness bilaterally** + other neurological symptoms

→ **UMN signs** (hyperreflexia, hypertonia, spasticity)

Upper limb dermatomes

C5	'Regimental badge area'
C6	Thumb & index finger
C7	Middle finger

Hoffman's sign: flick middle finger & watch for reflexive movement of index/thumb

→ **positive in UMN pathology** e.g. spinal cord compression

Lower limb dermatomes

L4	Inner shin, below knee
L5	Buttock, lateral calf, big toe
S1	Post. thigh & calf, little toe

Usually **posterolateral** herniation of disc, therefore **compresses nerve root below** i.e. herniated L5/S1 disc will compress S1 nerve root

Sciatica = pain along path of sciatic nerve (radiates down to toe) due to disc prolapse, stenosis or osteophytes affecting **nerve roots L4–S1**

Discs are named after vertebra above & below e.g. L4/5 or L3/4

Complications of surgery:

Nerve damage, CSF leak, infection, haemorrhage, back pain

Musculoskeletal disease

Cervical myelopathy

CERVICAL CANAL STENOSIS → cord compression = more serious than cervical radiculopathy

Causes:

- **Age-related degeneration:** osteophyte formation & ligament hypertrophy
- **Disc bulging/herniation:** consider in younger patients

Affects middle-aged/elderly

Symptoms: gradual onset so late presentation & Dx

- **Gait abnormalities:** spastic & ataxic
- **Loss of fine motor skills** → difficulty fastening buttons, writing etc.
- Later = tingling in fingers (may be misdiagnosed as carpal tunnel syndrome) ± sphincter dysfunction

On examination:

- **Gait abnormalities:** spastic & ataxic
- Wasting on shoulder girdle muscles
- UMN signs: spasticity, clonus, +ve Hoffman's/Babinski, hyperreflexia, hypertonia

Investigations: X-ray & MRI

Management:

Surgical intervention: laminectomy → recommended as progressive deterioration

Lumbar radiculopathies

LUMBAR DISC PROLAPSE = common in those aged 25–55y

Pathology:

- With age = increased risk of prolapse through defect in surrounding annulus fibrosus
- Results in **compression of nerve roots**

Symptoms: often onset during lifting/bending/twisting

- Stabbing lower back pain → radiating down the leg/buttock
- Numbness/tingling (in one leg)

On examination:

- Pain reproduced with **straight leg raise**
- **Motor signs:** modest lower muscle weakness (usually unilateral)
- **Sensory signs:** reduced pin-prick sensation discrimination (one dermatome)
- **LMN signs:** hyporeflexia, hypotonia
- May be **scoliosis** due to paravertebral muscle spasm

Diagnosis: usually clinical

- **Neurological examination:** myotomes, dermatomes, reflexes
- **MRI** if no improvement / considering surgery

Management: 90% self-limiting in 6–12w

1. **Conservative:** rest, physiotherapy, analgesia (NSAIDs or neuropathic – TCAs)
2. **Surgical:** if no improvement in 6w
 - Nerve root block (under fluoroscopic guidance)
 - Microdiscectomy (remove piece of prolapsed disc)

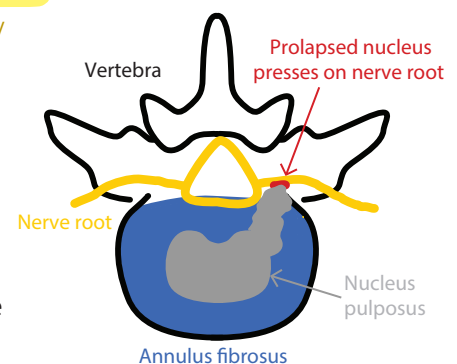


Fig. 18.9 Anatomy of disc prolapse.

Musculoskeletal malignancy

*Urgent referral if red flags:

1. 2ww for USS
2. If USS worrying/unclear: 2ww cancer pathway (MRI & biopsy)

If no worrying features:

observe or biopsy + histology

Soft tissue swellings

Benign	Malignant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <5cm or slow-growing • Painless • Superficial to fascia • Well-circumscribed • Homogeneous appearance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • >5cm or rapid increase in size* • Painful* • Penetrates fascia (deep within muscle)* • Irregular border / not contained • Heterogeneous radiological appearance
e.g. lipoma, leiomyoma, schwannoma	e.g. sarcoma

Primary bone tumours

	Osteosarcoma (most common)	Chondrosarcoma	Ewing's sarcoma
Epidemiology	→ Children/adolescents (M>F) → 2nd peak in old age (in Paget's / post radiotherapy)	Adults >50y	Children/adolescents (rare)
Common sites	Distal femur, proximal tibia & humerus	Flat bones: pelvis, scapula, rib	Diaphysis of bones
Associated Sx	Lung mets	Pain, mechanical Sx, pathological fractures	Systemic upset (weight loss, fever, ↑ ESR)
Treatment	1. Chemotherapy 2. Surgery (+ more chemo)	Not sensitive to chemo 1. Surgery	1. Chemotherapy 2. Surgery
5y survival	No mets at Dx: 60–65% Mets at Dx: 20%	Low grade: 90% High grade: 60%	50%

Multiple myeloma

→ **malignancy of plasma cells of bone marrow:** proliferation of **one type of plasma cell** producing **one type of Ig**

SYMPTOMS:

- Bone pain (commonly backache)
- Fractures of long bones & vertebral collapse
- **Hypercalcaemia** (due to increased osteolytic activity)
- Anaemia, neutropenia, thrombocytopenia
- ± Renal impairment & recurrent infections

Average age: >70y

RF: Afro-Caribbean

INVESTIGATIONS:

- **FBC:** anaemia, ↓ WCC, ↑ ESR/CRP
- **U&Es, LFTs:** deranged renal function in 20%
- **Bone profile:** hypercalcaemia
- **Plasma electrophoresis:** ↑ monoclonal Igs
- **Urine microscopy:** Bence Jones proteins (monoclonal light chains)
- **X-rays:** punched-out osteolytic lesions ('pepper-pot')
- **Bone scintigraphy:** may have cold spots
- **Bone marrow biopsy:** >10% clonal plasma cells

Poor prognosis:
6y median survival

MANAGEMENT:

- **Supportive for complications** e.g. anaemia, renal failure
- **Localised disease:** radiotherapy
- **Widespread disease:** chemotherapy

Metastatic bone disease

→ *most common cause of destructive bone disease in adults*

→ **70% in axial skeleton (mostly in spinal column)**

SYMPTOMS:

- **Bone pain** (unremitting, dull ache → **night pain**)
- **Pathological fractures** (sudden worsening of pain)
- Hypercalcaemia
- Spinal cord compression
- **B Sx:** weight loss, night sweats

ON EXAMINATION:

- Bony tenderness
 - Swelling
 - Reduced ROM in joints
 - Lymphadenopathy
 - Anaemia
 - Neurological deficit
- NB: if no Hx of cancer, consider primary bone tumour*

INVESTIGATIONS: find primary source

- **FBC:** anaemia, ↓ WCC, ↑ ESR/CRP
- **U&Es, LFTs, TFTs, bone profile:** hypercalcaemia
- **Tumour markers:** PSA for prostate cancer
- **Myeloma screen:** electrophoresis + urinalysis
- **X-rays:** lytic or sclerotic lesions
- **CT/MRI:** for primary tumour (chest, abdo, pelvis)
- **Bone scintigraphy:** hot spots
- **CXR**
- **CT-guided biopsy:** if uncertain of Dx

MANAGEMENT:

1. **Find primary source:** X-ray, CT, MRI, bone scan
2. **Supportive**
 - Pain relief
 - Bone protection: splints/bisphosphonates (assess fracture risk)
3. **Chemo/radiotherapy**
4. **Surgery:**
 - Stabilisation if risk of fracture in long bones / vertebrae
 - Arthroplasty if joint involvement

Common origins of bone mets:

PB-KTL ('lead kettle')

P	Prostate	K	Kidneys
B	Breast	T	Thyroid
		L	Lung

Differentials:

- Multiple myeloma
- Lymphoma
- Bone infection

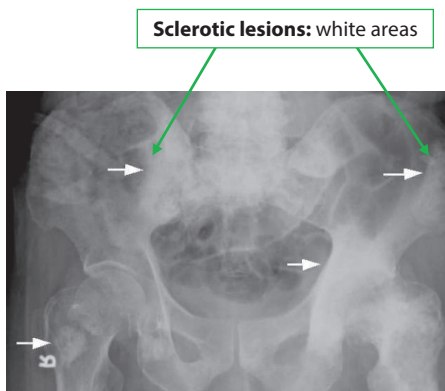


Fig. 19.1

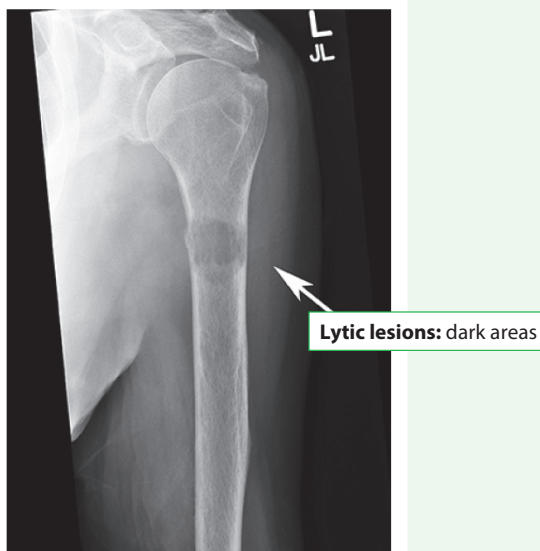


Fig. 19.2