



**RAMA
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FACULTY OF NURSING



INTESTINAL OBSTRUCTION

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Definition

An intestinal obstruction is a potentially serious condition in which the intestines are blocked. The blockage may be either partial or complete, occurring at one or more locations. Both the small intestine and large intestine, called the colon, can be affected. When a blockage occurs, food and drink cannot pass through the body.

Causes

Small bowel obstruction

- **Adhesions** from previous abdominal surgery (most common cause)
- Pseudo obstruction
- Hernias containing bowel
- **Crohn's disease** causing adhesions or inflammatory strictures
- Neoplasm, (benign or malignant)
- Intussusception
- Volvulus
- Swallowed objects, especially in children
- **Foreign bodies** (e.g. gallstones in gallstone ileus, swallowed objects)
- Intestinal atresia

Large bowel obstruction

- Impacted stool
- Colon cancer
- Meconium plug in newborns
- volvulus and intussusception
- **Diverticulitis**: the inflammation or infection of bulging pouches of intestine
- **Stricture**: a narrowing in the colon caused by scarring or inflammation

Clinical Features

- Severe abdominal pain
- Cramps that come in waves
- Bloating
- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Constipation
- Inability to pass gas
- Distention or swelling of the abdomen
- Loud noises from the abdomen
- Foul breath

Diagnostic Evaluation

- H/C
- P/E
- X-ray
- CT scan
- CT enterography
- Barium enema
- Ultrasound

Treatment

- ❖ Hospitalization to stabilize your condition.
- **Start IV fluids** and correct any electrolyte disturbances
- Putting a **nasogastric tube** through your nose and into your stomach to suck out air and fluid and relieve abdominal swelling

- **A barium or air enema** is used both as a diagnostic procedure and a treatment for children with intussusception
- Take low-fiber diet for partial obstruction
- **Endoscopy** for complete obstruction

- **Colonoscopy** for pseudo-obstruction
- **Analgesia** with **Anti-emetics**

❖ **Surgery-** Laparotomy.

Complications

The complications of bowel obstruction include:

- Bowel ischemia
- Bowel perforation, leading to fecal peritonitis (high mortality)
- Dehydration and renal impairment

THANK YOU