

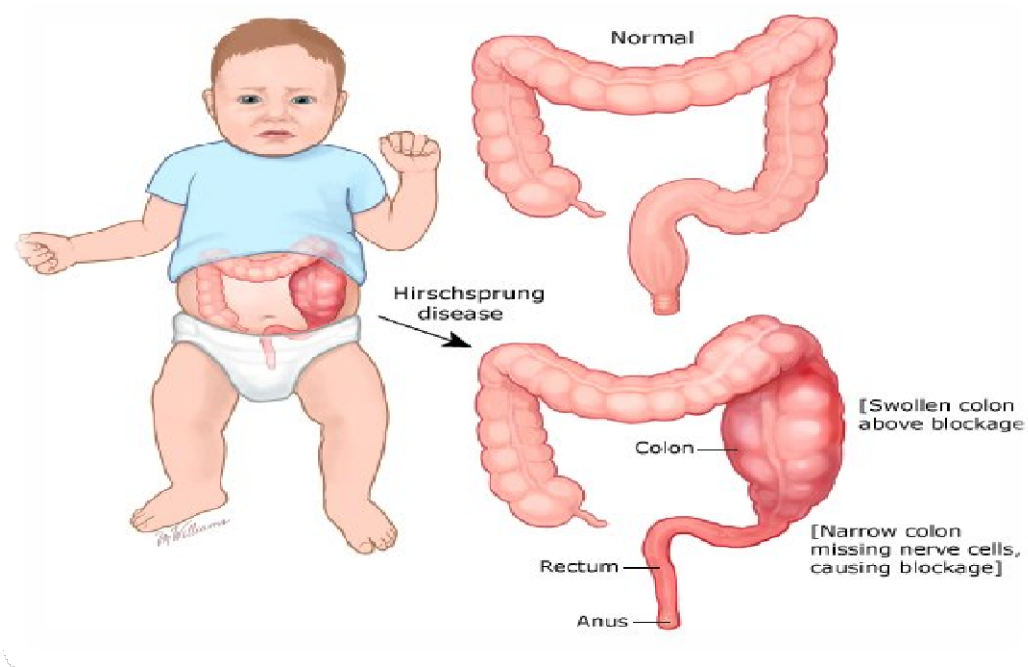


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**FACULTY OF NURSING**

# HIRSCHSPRUNG'S DISEASE



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## ***Definition***

Hirschsprung's disease is a congenital abnormality (birth defect) of the bowel in which there is absence of the ganglia (nerves) in the wall of the bowel or large intestine (colon) that causes difficulty in passing stool and it's also called congenital **megacolon.**

## *Causes*

- ❖ Unknown causes
- ❖ Genetic mutation
- ❖ Nerve cells in the colon don't form completely

## ***Sign & Symptoms***

*Typically, the most obvious sign is a newborn's **failure to have a bowel movement** within 48 hours after birth. Other signs and symptoms in **NEWBORNS** may include:*

- Swollen belly
- Vomiting, including vomiting a green or brown substance
- Constipation or gas
- Diarrhea

*In **OLDER CHILDREN**, signs and symptoms can include:*

- Swollen belly
- Chronic constipation
- Gas
- Failure to thrive
- Fatigue

## ***Diagnostic Evaluation***

- History Collection
- Abdominal X-ray using a contrast dye
- Anal manometry
- Biopsy

## ***Treatment***

*There are two ways this can be done: a pull-through surgery or an ostomy surgery.*

- **Pull-through surgery**

In this procedure, the lining of the diseased part of the colon is stripped away. Then, the normal section is pulled through the colon from the inside and attached to the anus. This is usually done using minimally invasive (laparoscopic) methods, operating through the anus.



- **Ostomy surgery**

*In children who are very ill, surgery might be done in two steps.*

First, the abnormal portion of the colon is removed and the top, healthy portion of the colon is connected to an opening the surgeon creates in the child's abdomen. Stool then leaves the body through the opening into a bag that attaches to the end of the intestine that protrudes through the hole in the abdomen (stoma). This allows time for the lower part of the colon to heal.

*After surgery, most children are able to pass stool through the anus.*

- Possible complications that may improve with time include:
- Diarrhea
- Constipation
- Leaking stool (fecal incontinence)
- Delays in toilet training



THANK  
YOU