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ABDOMINAL PAIN IN FEMALES OF CHILDBEARING YEARS

1. The largest cavity in the body is the:

- A. Cranial
- B. Thoracic
- C. Abdominal
- D. Pelvic

2. Pain that is felt from inflammation and tissue stretching is called:

- A. Visceral
- B. Somatic
- C. Referred
- D. Phantom

3. Localized and sharp pain is called _____ pain.

- A. Visceral
- B. Somatic
- C. Referred
- D. Phantom

4. In reference to the bladder, the uterus lies _____.

- A. Laterally
- B. Medially
- C. Anteriorly
- D. Posteriorly

5. Which disease is most likely to present with a pulsating abdominal mass?

- A. Aortic aneurism
- B. Appendicitis
- C. Intestinal bleeding
- D. Ectopic pregnancy

6. Which of the following conditions is most likely to present with a fever?

- A. Pelvic inflammatory disease
- B. Ectopic pregnancy
- C. Kidney stones
- D. Inflammatory bowel disease

7. The primary cause of appendicitis is:

- A. High cholesterol
- B. Feces obstructing the appendix
- C. Incomplete digestion of proteins
- D. Excessive intestinal mucus secretion

8. Female patients experiencing appendicitis are commonly misdiagnosed with:

- A. An ectopic pregnancy
- B. Ovarian cysts
- C. Pelvic inflammatory disease
- D. Urinary tract infection

9. When an ectopic pregnancy occurs, the egg most often implants in the:

- A. Uterus
- B. Pelvic cavity
- C. Vagina
- D. Fallopian tube

10. An ectopic pregnancy can be distinguished from appendicitis by the presence of:

- A. Fever
- B. Vaginal bleeding
- C. Hypotension
- D. Lower right quadrant tenderness

11. Ecchymosis around the umbilicus is known as _____ sign.

- A. Grey Turner's
- B. Battle's
- C. Cullen's
- D. Kehr's

12. A 19-year-old female presents with a gnawing abdominal pain in the epigastric region. She reports that the pain has been worsening for the past week since she returned from spring break. Physical exam reveals tenderness in the upper left quadrant, as well as Cullen's sign, and her vitals are: pulse 112, blood pressure 108/72, respirations 22, temperature 101.1°F. You suspect that she is experiencing:

- A. A myocardial infarction
- B. Acute appendicitis
- C. Peptic ulcers
- D. Acute pancreatitis

13. Pelvic inflammatory disease typically starts with a bacterial infection in the:

- A. Vagina
- B. Uterus
- C. Ovaries
- D. Pelvic cavity

14. Without treatment, pelvic inflammatory disease increases the risk for:

- A. Miscarriage
- B. Placenta previa
- C. Ectopic pregnancy
- D. Uterine rupture

15. The only time a provider should avoid palpating the abdomen is when:

- A. A patient complains of severe abdominal pain
- B. Bruit is heard when auscultating the abdomen
- C. The abdomen appears rigid and distended
- D. Vaginal hemorrhage is noted

ALS Questions

16. While there is no clear reason for referred pain, one theory for it is that:

- A. The brain does not want to recognize that an organ is injured
- B. Pain is sensed in a region where the patient is more likely to react to it
- C. Organs cannot actually be in pain, so nearby nerves are stimulated
- D. Nerve connections cross at synapse and signals are misinterpreted

17. A 24-year-old female presents with severe lower right quadrant abdominal pain that has been slowly worsening for 4 days. Her only medical history is Crohn's disease. When obtaining vital signs, her blood pressure is 84/54, pulse 132, respirations 26, oral temperature 98.8°F.

Based on this information, you suspect she may be experiencing:

- A. Acute appendicitis
- B. An ectopic pregnancy
- C. Pelvic inflammatory disease
- D. Diverticulitis

18. A 19-year-old female called 911 for severe abdominal pain radiating across her lower abdomen. She describes the pain as intense and "gnawing-like," has tenderness in her lower left and right quadrants, and denies vaginal bleeding, nausea, vomiting and trauma. Her vital signs are: BP 139/82, pulse 101, respirations 22, temperature 99.1°F. Based on this information, you can rule out:

- A. Pelvic inflammatory disease
- B. Ectopic pregnancy
- C. Acute appendicitis
- D. Ovarian cysts

19. Which lab value would be abnormal in a patient experiencing appendicitis?

- A. Red blood cell count
- B. White blood cell count
- C. Hematocrit
- D. Hemoglobin

20. Which of the following is an accurate statement about pain management for patients experiencing abdominal pain?

- A. Pain medications can mask the seriousness of symptoms
- B. Administering analgesics makes proper diagnosis more difficult
- C. Analgesics do not interfere with abdominal examinations
- D. The best pain management is using the patient's position of comfort.

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Answers to *Abdominal Pain in Females of Childbearing Years* CE Review, EMS World Magazine, July 2011. This test expires July 1, 2014. Paramedics are graded on questions 1–20, with 6 errors = fail. EMTs and others are graded on questions 1–15, with 4 errors = fail.

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