



ABDOMINAL TRAUMA

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1. You arrive on the scene of a reported stabbing to find a 23-year-old male patient standing on the curb, screaming in pain, holding the 3"-long handle of a switchblade that remains impaled in his abdomen.

You place the patient on a cot, remove his clothing and perform a rapid assessment. The knife is impaled two inches below the inferior aspect of the rib cage along the right mid-clavicular line. Based on the knife's location, which organ has likely been injured?

- A. Spleen
- B. Kidney
- C. Bladder
- D. Liver

2. The stabbing victim is begging to have the knife removed from his abdomen due to the significant pain. Your best action is to:

- A. Remove the knife and apply well-aimed direct pressure
- B. Remove the knife part way to make sure no severe bleeding occurs. If there is none, remove it completely
- C. Leave the knife in place, stabilize the knife with a bulky dressing and flex the patient's knees
- D. Leave the knife in place, keeping the patient's legs straight so the muscles keep the blade from moving

3. Which organ is found in the intrathoracic abdominal region?

- A. Spleen
- B. Ovary
- C. Kidney
- D. Pancreas

4. The kidneys are found in which abdominal region?

- A. Intrathoracic
- B. True abdomen
- C. Pelvic
- D. Retroperitoneal

5. Which of the following is a hollow organ?

- A. Kidney
- B. Intestine
- C. Pancreas
- D. Liver

6. When injured, hollow organs differ from solid organs in that:

- A. Hollow organs bleed more heavily than solid organs
- B. Solid organs are more likely to cause peritonitis
- C. Hollow organs are more likely to cause peritonitis
- D. Hollow organ injuries are associated with fewer complications

7. Which organ can most easily hide blood-pooling following a traumatic injury?

- A. Intestine
- B. Pancreas
- C. Liver
- D. Spleen

8. How many different time periods, or instances, exist where an organ can be injured during blunt force trauma?

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4

9. In regard to penetrating trauma, the chances of serious injury decrease once the distance an object traveled exceeds:

- A. 5 feet
- B. 10 feet
- C. 15 feet
- D. 20 feet

10. Why is it important to reassess the abdomen after the initial assessment?

- A. Bruising doesn't appear for at least 15 minutes following injury
- B. It is essential to determine how quickly bruising develops and spreads

- C. The initial assessment only identifies injuries 45% of the time
- D. The initial assessment only identifies injuries 65% of the time

11. Looking at the abdomen for abrasions, bruising, distention or other signs of injury describes:

- A. Inspection
- B. Auscultation
- C. Palpation
- D. Percussion

12. Pressing the hands against the abdomen in an organized fashion describes:

- A. Inspection
- B. Auscultation
- C. Palpation
- D. Percussion

13. What pattern of bruising occurs along the flanks that suggests pancreas or kidney bleeding?

- A. Cullen's sign
- B. Grey-Turner's sign
- C. Cheyne-Stokes sign
- D. Battle's sign

14. What pattern of bruising occurs around the umbilicus that suggests internal hemorrhage?

- A. Cullen's sign
- B. Grey-Turner's sign
- C. Cheyne-Stokes sign
- D. Battle's sign

15. Which of the following injuries has the greatest potential for severe internal hemorrhage?

- A. Abdominal evisceration
- B. Pelvis fracture
- C. Stab wound along the lower right flank
- D. Impaled knife in the upper right quadrant

ALS QUESTIONS

16. How does peritonitis present differently from localized injuries?

- A. Peritonitis causes tenderness in one quadrant only

- B. Localized injuries cause more significant pain
- C. Peritonitis causes generalized tenderness across the abdomen
- D. Localized injuries cause severe pain but do not cause tenderness

17. When providing fluid resuscitation for suspected internal hemorrhage following trauma, most adult trauma patient protocols recommend maintaining a systolic blood pressure of:

- A. 70–80 mmHg
- B. 80–90 mmHg
- C. 90–100 mmHg
- D. Above 100 mmHg

18. What is the benefit of gastric tube placement?

- A. It allows assessing for blood in the stomach
- B. It speeds care upon arrival at a trauma center
- C. It helps relieve abdominal tenderness
- D. It allows the patient to receive surgery more rapidly

19. Which of the following statements describes the best approach to pain management following abdominal trauma?

- A. Analgesics should never be given to patients suffering abdominal trauma
- B. Analgesics may worsen bleeding following penetrating abdominal trauma
- C. Analgesics can be given, but only in low doses so injuries are not masked
- D. Analgesics can be safely administered for pain following abdominal trauma

20. Which hollow organ is unlikely to leak digestive enzymes or acids following penetrating trauma?

- A. Intestine
- B. Bladder
- C. Pancreas
- D. Stomach



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Answers to *Abdominal Trauma* CE Review, EMS Magazine, March 2010

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