



Understanding the Why: Rapid-Fire Gastrointestinal Review

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Summary: What do you need to know about gastrointestinal function to prepare for certification, refresh your knowledge, or answer those nagging questions that you never have time to research? How can you detect signs of gastrointestinal dysfunction and determine if the multiple functions of this complex system are in synchrony? This fast-moving review will take you through both the clinical picture of gastrointestinal malfunction during acute illness and impacts of that illness on preexisting gastrointestinal disease.

Nursing Implications:

- You will come away with a better understanding of WHY tests are ordered, WHEN to suspect gastrointestinal malfunction, WHO is at risk for intestinal failure, WHERE to look for complications associated with upper versus lower GI surgery, and WHAT to monitor during interventions and therapies.

Key Takeaways:

- Intestinal obstruction can be functional or mechanical.
- Orthostatic hypotension is an early sign of blood loss.
- GI bleeding is manifested based on the site of injury.

Link: <https://library.amsn.org/amsn/sessions/5393/view>

References:

Sole, ML, Klein, D, & Moseley, M(eds). *Introduction to Critical Care Nursing*, 7th ed. St. Louis: Elsevier, Inc. 2017.

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