Geriatric Emergency Medicine Initiative
Resident Training Lecture Objectives

Medical and Surgical Emergencies & Urgencies in the Aging Patient: Acute Geriatric Abdomen

Presenter: Dr. Wayne Tamaska
Length: 1 hour
Target Audience: 
- Emergency Medicine Residents (Primary)
- Internal Medicine Residents
- Emergency Medicine Faculty

Presentation Overview:
A recurrent theme of this lecture series is that the geriatric patient frequently presents with atypical clinical signs and symptoms that can delay both proper diagnosis, and timely and appropriate treatment. Acute abdominal emergencies in geriatric patients are no exception; elderly patients frequently present with poorly defined or variable physical signs. This presentation introduces the emergency medicine resident to common abdominal problems seen in the older patients, describes their atypical clinical presentations, outlines common diagnostic findings for each abdominal emergency, and summarizes their treatments.

Learning objectives:
At the end of this presentation, residents will be able to:
1. Recognize the barriers to accurate diagnoses of acute abdominal pain in the elderly including aspects of aging pathophysiology, the limitations of laboratory testing and the impact of other comorbidities, particularly dementia, in making the diagnosis.
2. Recognize common atypical clinical presentations of acute abdominal emergencies in the aging patient.
3. Generate a differential diagnosis of acute abdominal pain in the elderly and discuss the abdominal emergencies that require rapid surgical intervention.
4. Describe the appropriate comprehensive diagnostic work-up for the described emergencies, including the utility of bedside ultrasound.
5. Utilize timely and evidence-based pain management strategies that include control of other abdominal-related symptoms.

Instructional Methods:
- Didactic presentation with PowerPoint slides
- Case-based discussion
- Audience response questions

Evaluation Methods:
- Pre-Test Items
- Post-Test Items
- Reaction survey
References: