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

1. What is the leading cause of the acute surgical abdomen in the elderly population?
   a. Appendicitis
   b. Biliary tract disease
   c. Diverticulitis
   d. Peptic ulcer disease
   e. Pancreatitis

   **Answer:** B

2. A 70-year-old patient with a history of diabetes and hypertension presents to the emergency department with syncope and severe sudden onset of low back pain. Vital signs: BP 80/50, pulse 120, respirations 24, temperature 37°C. The most appropriate initial diagnostic test is:
   a. Angiogram
   b. Ultrasonography
   c. CAT scan of the abdomen
   d. Magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography (MRCP)
   e. Supine obstruction series

   **Answer:** B

3. Which of the following statements is true regarding abdominal pain in the elderly?
   a. White blood cell counts are specifically elevated in the acute abdomen.
   b. Lactate elevations are not an early sign of mesenteric ischemia.
   c. Lipase elevation is a specific test for pancreatitis.
   d. Positive fecal occult blood testing is specifically useful.
   e. Amylase elevation is a non-specific test for pancreatitis.

   **Answer:** C