**Abdominal Pain Module**

Welcome to the Abdominal Pain module. Please understand that this module in no way encompasses the entire spectrum of abdominal pain pathology, but instead serves to help you identify and expedite treatment for the most common and severe etiologies.

**Learning Objectives**

You are not expected to be experts, but you are expected to formulate a reasonable differential diagnosis, identifying the worst possible diagnoses first. You are also expected to **put forth a comprehensive plan for diagnosing and treating your patient.**

Understand the pertinent patient history, physical exam, lab, and imaging findings associated with the following chief complaints:

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

Cholycystitis

Pancreatitis

Appendicitis

Ovarian Torsion

Ectopic Pregnancy

Testicular Torsion

Small Bowel Obstruction

Selection and interpretation of appropriate lab studies

Selection and interpretation of appropriate imaging studies

Selection and dosing of appropriate medication, inlcuding pain control

Determine appropriate disposition for patients with abdominal pain

**Structure and independent study**

**Please be aware that because of the breadth of pathology encompassed by the chief complaint of abdominal pain, the lecture portion of this module does not contain all of the information you will be responsible for.** Your learning will be augmented by short independent study assignments, and in class case based learning.

**Independent Study**

Please complete the following assignments. Note that most of these assignments are short, however the EM Basic podcast is a bit longer.

Please listen to the entire EM Basic podcast on abdominal pain, pay special attention to the differences in history and physical as they apply to each disease process  
<http://hwcdn.libsyn.com/p/7/c/f/7cf1b5caf040807e/Abdominal_pain_final.mp3?c_id=3531944&expiration=1447150201&hwt=83af0ba16d7e501e9d981bc738cfa95b>

Please read the PDF below and pay particular attention to which radiology studies are first line for each disease process

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/5247611/Abdominal%20Pain%20Diagnostics.pdf>

Please read the blog post below, which addresses abdominal pain in the elderly.  
<http://www.aliem.com/ten-tips-for-approaching-abdominal-pain-in-the-elderly/>

Read the blog post below on ovarian torsion, paying attention to the utility of the pelvic exam and first line imaging modality.

<http://www.emdocs.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/OvarianTorsion-Millsap-.pdf>

Please read the blog posts below on ovarian and testicular torsion, paying attention to what factors increase the risk of each problem, and how long a torsed gonad can stay viable

http://www.cdemcurriculum.org/ssm/gu/testicular/testicular.php

<http://emlyceum.com/2012/06/21/ovarian-torsion-answers/>

Please read the blog post below on AAA, paying attention the risk factors, first line imaging modality, and treatment for AAA.

<http://www.emdocs.net/abdominal-aortic-aneurysm-clinical-highlights-updates/>