

	Policy:	Patients Over Age 60 With Abdominal Pain
	Number:	
Approved by: Medical Advisory Committee	Manual:	
Signature:	Section:	Medical Directive Emergency
	Page:	1 of 3

Procedure:

For adults \geq 60 y.o. presenting to the Emergency Department with abdominal pain

Administration of Intervention:

1. Emergency Department RNs will ensure that patient is NPO until assessed by MD
2. Fentanyl protocol is instituted
3. Abdominal lab panel, urinalysis, VBG and lactate are ordered
4. Bedside ultrasound moved into room for MD to rapidly rule-out AAA

Guidelines

In unstable patients, MD to be called to assess patient immediately

Directive acknowledges the high incidence of significant morbidity and mortality in elderly patients with abdominal pain

References:

1. Lewis LM, Banet GA, Blanda M, et al. Etiology and clinical course of abdominal pain in senior patients: a prospective, multicenter study. *J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci.* Aug 2005;60(8):1071-6.
2. Kuhn M et al. Emergency department ultrasound scanning for abdominal aortic aneurysm: accessible, accurate and advantageous. *Ann Emerg Med* 2000; 36:219-223
3. Barkin AZ et al. Ultrasound detection of abdominal aortic aneurysm. *Emerg Med Clin N Am* 2004; 22: 675-682
4. Laurell H, Hansson LE, Gunnarsson U. Acute abdominal pain among elderly patients. *Gerontology.* 2006;52(6):339-44
5. Esses D, Birnbaum A, Bijur P, et al. Ability of CT to alter decision making in elderly patients with acute abdominal pain. *Am J Emerg Med.* Jul 2004;22(4):270-2.

Effective Date: May 25, 2009	Revised Date:	Version: May 2009
File Name: Abdominal Pain Panel ED-Lab-07		

6. Hustey FM, Meldon SW, Banet GA, et al. The use of abdominal computed tomography in older ED patients with acute abdominal pain. *Am J Emerg Med.* May 2005;23(3):259-65.
7. Fleischmann D. MDCT of renal and mesenteric vessels. *Eur Radiol.* Dec 2003;13 Suppl 5:M94-101.
8. Cademartiri F, Raaijmakers RH, Kuiper JW, et al. Multi-detector row CT angiography in patients with abdominal angina. *Radiographics.* Jul-Aug 2004;24(4):969-84.
9. Kirkpatrick ID, Kroeker MA, Greenberg HM. Biphasic CT with mesenteric CT angiography in the evaluation of acute mesenteric ischemia: initial experience. *Radiology.* Oct 2003;229(1):91-8.
10. Attard AR, Corlett MJ, Kidner NJ, et al. Safety of early pain relief for acute abdominal pain. *BMJ.* Sep 5 1992;305(6853):554-6.
11. Bugliosi TF, Meloy TD, Vukov LF. Acute abdominal pain in the elderly. *Ann Emerg Med.* Dec 1990;19(12):1383-6.
12. Chase CW, Barker DE, Russell WL, et al. Serum amylase and lipase in the evaluation of acute abdominal pain. *Am Surg.* Dec 1996;62(12):1028-33.
13. de Dombal FT. Acute abdominal pain in the elderly. *J Clin Gastroenterol.* Dec 1994;19(4):331-5.
14. Fenyo G. Acute abdominal disease in the elderly: experience from two series in Stockholm. *Am J Surg.* Jun 1982;143(6):751-4.
15. Graff L, Russell J, Seashore J, et al. False-negative and false-positive errors in abdominal pain evaluation: failure to diagnose acute appendicitis and unnecessary surgery. *Acad Emerg Med.* Nov 2000;7(11):1244-55.
16. Hilton D, Iman N, Burke GJ, et al. Absence of abdominal pain in older persons with endoscopic ulcers: a prospective study. *Am J Gastroenterol.* Feb 2001;96(2):380-4.
17. Holly DC, Zachary PE Jr. Cholesterol embolization leading to small and large bowel infarction. *Am J Gastroenterol.* Nov 1995;90(11):2075-6.
18. Horattas MC, Guyton DP, Wu D. A reappraisal of appendicitis in the elderly. *Am J Surg.* Sep 1990;160(3):291-3.
19. Kizer KW, Vassar MJ. Emergency department diagnosis of abdominal disorders in the elderly. *Am J Emerg Med.* Jul 1998;16(4):357-62.
20. Lee JF, Leow CK, Lau WY. Appendicitis in the elderly. *Aust N Z J Surg.* Aug 2000;70(8):593-6.
21. Lee R, Tung HK, Tung PH, et al. CT in acute mesenteric ischaemia. *Clin Radiol.* Apr 2003;58(4):279-87.

22. LoVecchio F, Oster N, Sturmman K, et al. The use of analgesics in patients with acute abdominal pain. *J Emerg Med.* Nov-Dec 1997;15(6):775-9.
23. Marco CA, Schoenfeld CN, Keyl PM, et al. Abdominal pain in geriatric emergency patients: variables associated with adverse outcomes. *Acad Emerg Med.* Dec 1998;5(12):1163-8.
24. Laurell H, Hansson LE, Gunnarsson U. Acute abdominal pain among elderly patients. *Gerontology.* 2006;52(6):339-44
25. Pace S, Burke TF. Intravenous morphine for early pain relief in patients with acute abdominal pain. *Acad Emerg Med.* Dec 1996;3(12):1086-92.
26. Parker JS, Vukov LF, Wollan PC. Abdominal pain in the elderly: use of temperature and laboratory testing to screen for surgical disease. *Fam Med.* Mar 1996;28(3):193-7.
27. Parker LJ, Vukov LF, Wollan PC. Emergency department evaluation of geriatric patients with acute cholecystitis. *Acad Emerg Med.* Jan 1997;4(1):51-5.
28. Rao PM, Rhea JT, Novelline RA, et al. Helical CT with only colonic contrast material for diagnosing diverticulitis: prospective evaluation of 150 patients. *AJR Am J Roentgenol.* Jun 1998;170(6):1445-9.
29. Reilly JM, Tilson MD. Incidence and etiology of abdominal aortic aneurysms. *Surg Clin North Am.* Aug 1989;69(4):705-11.
30. Rusnak RA, Borer JM, Fastow JS. Misdiagnosis of acute appendicitis: common features discovered in cases after litigation. *Am J Emerg Med.* Jul 1994;12(4):397-402.
31. Sanson TG, O'Keefe KP. Evaluation of abdominal pain in the elderly. *Emerg Med Clin North Am.* Aug 1996;14(3):615-27.
32. Stussman BJ. National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey: 1994 emergency department summary. *Adv Data.* May 17 1996;1-20.
33. Vermeulen B, Morabia A, Unger PF, et al. Acute appendicitis: influence of early pain relief on the accuracy of clinical and US findings in the decision to operate--a randomized trial. *Radiology.* Mar 1999;210(3):639-43.
34. Vissers RJ, Abu-Laban RB, McHugh DF. Amylase and lipase in the emergency department evaluation of acute pancreatitis. *J Emerg Med.* Nov-Dec 1999;17(6):1027-37.