

Progression of Training and Skills Gastroenterology

Preamble

Symptoms that may arise from the GI tract present - abdominal pain, diarrhea, constipation, nausea, swallowing difficulty, heartburn, jaundice and bleeding - arise frequently and the family physician needs to acquire expertise in their diagnosis and management. To this should be added screening for malignancy of the GI tract of which colorectal cancer is the second most lethal in the United States. At the same time, ancillary testing, from breath tests to ultrasound to CT, offers an ability to assist diagnosis. Some diagnoses imply a lifetime burden and long-term support and commitment.

Goals

- Acquire history and physical exam skills, develop expertise in diagnostic testing, and learn management of gastroenterology disease
- Understand the range of gastroenterology problems and pathology
- Demonstrate the ability to complete a gastroenterology diagnostic workup
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively with patients and others involved in their care
- Understand and utilize appropriate gastroenterology resources, including other health care providers

Objectives

- Perform a GI-focused history and physical examination
- Understand the indications and contraindications of EGD, colonoscopy, ERCP
- Understand the indications and contraindications of GI tract radiology including ultrasound, CT and MRI
- Be able to diagnose and treat GERD
- Be able to diagnose peptic ulcer disease and understand role of H pylori & NSAID use
- Understand diagnosis and treatment of cholelithiasis and its complications
- Understand the diagnosis and management of acute and chronic pancreatitis
- Understand the diagnosis and management of celiac disease
- Be able to diagnose inflammatory bowel disease & recognize indications for urgent referral
- Understand the indications and implications of chronic NG tubes, percutaneous gastrostomy and parenteral hyperalimentation
- Have expertise in colon cancer screening
- Understand the diagnosis & management of irritable bowel syndrome
- Understand the diagnosis & management of acute and chronic GI bleeding
- Understand the indications & contraindications and complications of bariatric surgery

These goals and objectives are achieved through a combination of structured inpatient/outpatient experience, together with didactic instruction. In addition to a GI rotation, the overlap with general medicine should be apparent.

[Revised and approved at the Faculty Meeting April 3, 2012]

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Suggested reading:

[Treatment of irritable bowel syndrome](#)

[Ulcerative colitis: diagnosis and treatment](#)

[Diagnosis and management of crohn's disease](#) - please log in with your user name and address to AAFP website

[Diagnostic approach to chronic constipation in adults](#) - please log in with your user name and address to AAFP website

[Reducing adverse effects of proton pump inhibitors](#) - please log in with your user name and address to AAFP website

[Celiac disease](#)

[Alcoholic liver disease](#)