

Laura J. Moore
S. Rob Todd
Editors

Common Problems in Acute Care Surgery

Second Edition

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Foreword

It is a privilege to provide a foreword for the second edition of *Common Problems in Acute Care Surgery*. One of the editors (LJM) worked with me as a first-year medical student on a research project that won first prize and then later was my surgical critical care fellow. The other editor (SRT) is a former partner when we were both at one of the busiest trauma centers in the country. Both editors are highly committed to acute care surgery.

Acute care surgery is a continuously evolving specialty that encompasses trauma, emergency surgery, and surgical critical care. Trauma developed into an accepted specialty in the 1980s and 1990s. Initially trauma was a busy operative specialty associated with complex critical care, but, as our diagnostic modalities improved, and we realized that not every spleen or liver requires an operation, nonoperative care made the specialty less desirable to surgical trainees. At this same time, hospitals found it increasingly difficult to provide adequate coverage for emergency surgery. In response to fewer numbers of surgeons choosing trauma and surgical critical care as a career, a joint meeting of the American College of Surgeons, the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma (AAST), the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma, and the Western Trauma Association was held in 2003 to address the problems of access to emergency surgical care and the future of trauma surgery. Later this same year, the AAST created an ad hoc committee to reorganize trauma, surgical critical care, and emergency surgery into what we now know as acute care surgery. The first formal AAST-accredited acute care surgery fellowship program began in 2008.

As acute care surgery has matured, it has continued to evolve and expand as the need for urgent or emergent surgical disease care continues to increase, especially as our population ages. The acute care surgeon is uniquely able to provide not only operative expertise but care from admission to discharge including critical care and, even when necessary, end-of-life care. Minimally invasive techniques are an increasing part of their operative lexicon. They must be adept at changing diagnostic modalities and critical care monitoring as these continue to change with technological advances.

Common Problems in Acute Care Surgery, 2nd edition, provides an evidence-based review of common problems that are encountered by the acute care surgeon. The target audience for this book includes trainees, physician extenders, and practicing surgeons who care for patients requiring emergency surgical care. It is organized in the same fashion as the first edition, in three parts: (1) general principles, (2) specific disease states, and (3) ethics, legal, and administrative issues. All of the topics in the first edition have returned and have been updated by experts from the acute care surgery community. In addition, a number of topics have been added. In the section on general principles, perioperative management of the cirrhotic patient, hemodynamic monitoring in the intensive care unit, and principles of vascular access are now included. In the section on specific disease states, management of intra-abdominal infections has been added. In the third section that includes administrative issues, a chapter outlining the development of an acute care surgery program is included.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the distinguished group of authors who participated in writing this book. I would also like to extend special thanks to the editors for taking on the task of updating a book on a constantly evolving field, acute care surgery.

Sacramento, CA, USA

Christine S. Cocanour

Preface

Acute care surgery continues to evolve as a specialty. With the growing patient need for access to emergency surgical services, acute care surgeons are providing much needed care for patients with urgent or emergent surgical disease. The field of acute care surgery has continued to evolve and expand in response to this need for reliable access to emergency surgical care. The care of the emergency surgical patient presents a complex set of challenges for surgeons. An understanding of the technical aspects of an operation combined with the presence of severe physiologic derangements presents a unique set of challenges to the surgeon. In order to deliver optimal care, the acute care surgeon must have expertise in both surgery and critical care. They must be facile with both open and laparoscopic surgical techniques, be familiar with the various diagnostic modalities available, be able to understand optimal resuscitation strategies, and be able to coordinate the care team in order to deliver rapid, evidence-based care for these challenging patients.

Common Problems in Acute Care Surgery, 2nd edition, addresses the common surgical emergencies encountered by acute care surgeons. The purpose of this text is to provide both trainees and practicing surgeons a comprehensive, evidence-based review of the most common clinical problems encountered by acute care surgeons. This second edition of the textbook includes updates to all of the topics from the first edition, as well as several new topics including the management of intra-abdominal infections, the management of the open abdomen, and hemodynamic monitoring of the critically ill surgical patient. The book is organized into three main sections. The first section focuses on general principles of acute care surgery including the initial evaluation and resuscitation, the perioperative management of the hemodynamically unstable patient, and common critical care issues encountered in the management of these patients. The second section focuses on specific disease states that are commonly encountered by acute care surgeons. Each chapter in this section addresses a specific clinical problem by describing the epidemiology, clinical presentation, diagnosis, management (including pertinent operative techniques), potential complications, and follow-up. The third and final section focuses on ethics and legal issues frequently encountered in acute care surgery.

Each of the authors in this text was selected for their expertise in the field of acute care surgery. We are grateful to the many surgeons who devoted countless hours in the preparation of this text. The end result is a resource that we hope will assist acute care surgeons in delivering compassionate, evidence-based care to the emergency surgical patient.

Houston, TX, USA

Laura J. Moore
S. Rob Todd

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Part I

General Principles

Initial Resuscitation and Management of the Hemodynamically Unstable Patient

1

Diane A. Schwartz and John Holcomb

Hemorrhagic and Hypovolemic Shock and Initial Stabilization Maneuvers

In 1946 hemorrhagic shock was induced in animal models and a stratification system emerged: simple hypotension, which was noted to always be reversible if identified and treated; impending shock, which was reversible if treated aggressively; and irreversible shock state, where hypotension, sustained by high-volume blood loss, correlated to notable metabolic derangement [1]. The authors concluded that hemorrhagic shock did not occur at a specific volume loss or blood pressure, but was rather a fluid state that required early recognition by the treating physician and immediate intervention during the reversible period.

Hemorrhagic shock is defined as a mismatch between cellular perfusion and metabolism. Strict adherence to the definition results in difficulty identifying compensated shock states, however, since compensated shock does not always have a straightforward clinical picture. Compensated and severe hemorrhagic shock occur on a spectrum of metabolic acidosis, blood loss, poor tissue perfusion, tissue injury, and ineffective oxygen extraction (Table 1.1 and Fig. 1.1).

Hemorrhage is commonly categorized by volume and percent blood loss with specific findings at defined losses [2]. Interestingly these categories are largely based on opinion rather than objective clinical data. Clinical parameters are not markedly different from baseline in phases one and two of shock, contributing to the difficulty in recognizing shock in its early stages. In providing care to the critically

injured patient, it is of utmost importance to have the ability to diagnose impending or early hemorrhagic shock. It is rather easy to diagnose severe hemorrhagic shock; however, the affected patients have already undergone cardiovascular collapse and are near death. The astute clinician will prefer to intervene earlier, when the diagnosis is more obscure and reversal of the shock state is possible. Once recognized, directed treatment of imminent shock or ongoing hemorrhage begins.

During field resuscitation, patients receive treatments necessary to control bleeding. Several centers tout an integrated database or registry to incorporate pre-hospital data to analyze outcomes [3–5]. One pre-hospital intervention to consider in the management of hemorrhage is infusion of blood products. In patients who have the opportunity of survival, meaning that they are in severe hemorrhagic shock, but are able to resuscitate with source controlled prior to cardiopulmonary collapse and death, the first 6 h of resuscitation is an important time frame. This is because outcomes have been shown to improve with early and aggressive resuscitation during the first 6 h.

The Center for Translational Injury Research in Houston has shown improved outcomes and negligible waste associated with the use of blood and FFP in the pre-hospital setting [6]. The outcomes seem to be most notable in patients in severe hemorrhagic shock who survive to hospital arrival. This particular patient population faces imminent death within the first 6 h danger period of hemorrhagic shock. In receiving the products they need earlier, their shock process is mitigated faster and likely accounts for the outcome improvement. The Department of Defense is leading a prospective study for the use of thawed FFP in the pre-hospital setting, results of which are pending [7]. In centers where blood product cannot be transfused in the field or plasma cannot be kept in thawed state, protocols assist to determine hospital transfusion requirements based on field data [8].

Apparent blood loss in the field should be managed with application of direct pressure or a tourniquet. The use of tourniquets has turned some of the most life-threatening

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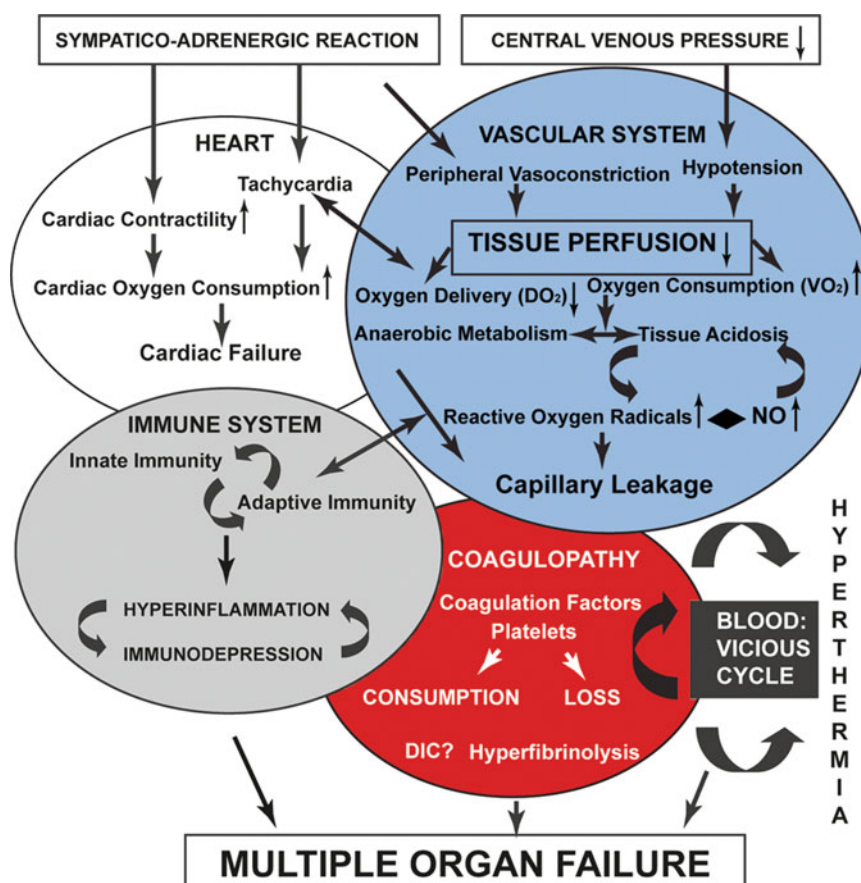
Table 1.1 Estimated blood loss^a based on patients' initial presentation

	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV
Blood loss (ml)	Up to 750	750–1500	1500–2000	>2000
Blood loss (% blood volume)	Up to 15	15–30	30–40	>40
Pulse rate (per minute)	<100	100–120	120–140	>140
Systolic blood pressure	Normal	Normal	Decreased	Decreased
Pulse pressure (mmHg)	Normal or increased	Decreased	Decreased	Decreased
Respiratory rate	14–20	20–30	30–40	>35
Urine output (ml/h)	>30	20–30	5–15	Negligible
Central nervous system/mental status	Slightly anxious	Mildly anxious	Anxious, confused	Confused, lethargic
Initial fluid replacement	Crystalloid	Crystalloid	Crystalloid and blood	Crystalloid and blood

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^aFor a 70-kg man

Fig. 1.1 Pathophysiology of hemorrhagic shock. (From Angele MK, Schneider CP, Chaudry IH. Bench to bedside review: latest results in hemorrhagic shock. Crit Care. 2008;12(4):218, with permission.)



injuries into ones where life and limb can be salvaged. The resurgent use of tourniquets has been overwhelmingly supported in the military data from the Iraq and Afghanistan experience, where it is shown that there are virtually no adverse effects of the tourniquet itself if left in place for less than 2 h [9]. Even in inexperienced hands, tourniquets have been shown to prevent life-threatening exsanguination and should be applied in any pre-hospital situation in which extremity hemorrhage exists and prior to the onset of exsanguination [10]. There are several commercial devices available and their purpose is to exert enough circumferential pressure to prevent blood from flowing into the extremity in

question [11]. Contrary to older teaching, use of a tourniquet does not cause increased amputation rates [12]. Use of tourniquets is ubiquitous on the battlefield, and in many civilian centers use has become routine.

Massive Transfusion

Since no single injury, other than severe head injury, has ever been identified to correlate with non-survivability, massive transfusion protocols should not be held for an assumption of impending mortality [13]. According to this article, no lab

value, no injury severity score (ISS), no demographic data, and no vital sign, singly or grouped, accurately determine a mortality score. A second manuscript from the same group of authors discusses a potential model for predicting mortality at 30 days; however, still there are cautions against using such a model to withhold much-needed blood products during resuscitation [14]. Factors most predictive of 24-h mortality are pH, base deficit, and amount of blood transfused within the initial 6 h. Factors at 30 days that are of significance include age and ISS on admission.

At The Texas Trauma Institute at Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston, Texas, the massive transfusion protocol is activated for any patient who is suspected to require substantial transfusion, based on any one of the following: pre-hospital administration of blood or blood products by Memorial Hermann Life Flight, heart rate on arrival of more than 120 beats per minute, systolic blood pressure on arrival of less than 90, a positive FAST exam, penetrating or blunt trauma mechanism, or having a requirement for uncrossmatched blood in the emergency room on arrival. These recommendations come from retrospective data comparing predictive scores for massive transfusion. Using these parameters a score of two or greater was found to be 75 % sensitive and 86 % specific, correlating relatively well without statistical significance to other published scoring systems [15]. The goal of this guideline is to make a continuous supply of six units of packed red blood cells (PRBC), six units of plasma (FFP), and one dose of a six-pack of platelets readily available. After 6 units of PRBC it is advised to check a fibrinogen level and if less than 150 mg/dl to administer ten units of cryoprecipitate. Serial labs are also drawn during the massive transfusion and include lactate, arterial blood gas, rapid thromboelastogram (TEG), coagulation panel, and complete blood count (CBC) with differential and platelet count. It should be noted that a TEG is available within minutes (5 min for a rapid TEG), whereas the coagulation panel and CBC take more than 45 min to process [16]. Additionally all level 1 trauma activations, which are the highest acuity patients at Memorial Hermann Hospital, are typed and crossed on arrival so that type-specific blood may be given when available.

There seems to be an advantage to maintaining ratio driven resuscitation initially, followed by goal-directed resuscitation once source control is achieved [17]. Data supporting the 1:1:1 FFP:platelet:PRBC ratio initially came from military literature dating from 2007, which shows an improvement in mortality for patients receiving such ratios [18]. This was later extrapolated in several studies to the civilian population and further propagated in several trauma centers as a new standard of care [19]. A review article from 2010 looked at nine additional observational studies that were published after the 2007 article [20]. There are now randomized trials comparing ratios and showing improve-

ment in mortality within the crucial 3 h window for patients receiving 1:1:1 transfusions [21]. The majority of trauma centers now use this approach.

A goal-directed transfusion protocol is a seemingly attractive approach for trauma resuscitation once source control is achieved. Originally, massive transfusion protocols were designed to rapidly and reliably provide products to patients who had clinical evidence of substantial hemorrhage. Products and blood were given without a specific ratio until patients either expired or improved clinically. After introduction of the 1:1:1 ratio, which targets the coagulopathy that accompanies massive transfusion, surgeons began to question if transfusion should be automatic or rather if it should be guided by objective data and lab values. One of several manuscripts on goal-directed resuscitation expresses the idea that resuscitation may be more functional and cost effective if lab values, such as TEG, are used to guide decision making during the resuscitation [22]. This concept relies on laboratory reports being ordered, drawn, sent to, and returned from the laboratory in a clinically relevant time frame. While there have been questions raised regarding TEG's role in reducing mortality or improving transfusion-related outcomes, there is no question that TEG remains the fastest real-time data set available for coagulopathy assessment [1, 23]. Most clinicians have combined these two approaches. Using a ratio based approach is optimal when the patients are rapidly bleeding. As bleeding slows, TEG guided transfusion therapy is appropriate [24].

Acidosis

Acidosis is one component of the trauma triad of death that must be recognized as a propagator of coagulopathy and continued hemorrhage. Animal and human models have shown direct correlation of lactate and mortality risk [25]. Lactate levels are elevated in hemorrhagic shock and will persist in times of suboptimal tissue perfusion. pH correlates with overall resuscitation and tissue perfusion, maintaining statistical relevance even in cases where permissive hypotension is maintained [26]. Lactic acidosis is directly reflective of continued need for resuscitation but takes longer to normalize than other parameters, such as vital signs. In general patients will reach two separate resuscitative goals: source control, which happens first, and physiologic, which lags. Serum acid levels can be extrapolated from pH, lactate levels, CO₂ or bicarbonate on blood work; all are useful markers of cellular aerobic metabolism [27]. In using these other markers of acidosis, however, it is imperative to understand that not all acidosis is derived from lactate, and not all acidosis is directly related to ongoing anaerobic metabolism. For example, patients with severe hemorrhagic shock may have persistence of acidosis related to acute kidney injury despite

resuscitation being completed. In these cases lactate may be normal and acid levels are derived from other sources. There has been recent interest in non-invasive pH monitoring, since it seems to reliably track the success of resuscitation and risk of mortality [28, 29]. Non-invasive monitoring systems are desirable in both combat and civilian arenas where resources for invasive intervention may be lacking.

Lactate, serum bicarbonate, base deficit, hemoglobin, or tissue oxygenation are some of the most crucial lab values in determining metabolic acidosis, which occurs with poor tissue oxygen extraction and indicates shock at the cellular level [30–36]. Lactate, in the pre-hospital setting, may be more predictive of prognosis than are vital signs, which can be fairly stable until hemodynamic collapse ensues [37]. Lactate increases in under-perfused tissues and can be an early predictor of impending shock, and helps differentiate the stable patient from the one in a compensated shock state.

Base deficit is a reflection of metabolic acidosis secondary to unmeasured anions, which is typically assumed to be lactate in the trauma patient [38]. Base deficit, lactate, anion gap, and bicarbonate levels all correspond to metabolic acidosis and have all been shown to predict morbidity and mortality [39–42]. However, bicarbonate is only a single marker of acid–base status, whereas anion gap, base deficit, and lactate all have some dependence on electrolytes, pH, and buffer capacity of blood [43]. There does not seem to exist great consensus in the literature regarding which is the best predictor of mortality [44].

Up to a third of patients in the ICU show discordance between their base deficit and lactate, and in these situations it has been shown that lactate is more predictive of overall outcome, when it differs significantly from base deficit [45]. Authors from this source imply that base deficit on its own does not have the predictive capacity for mortality that lactate has. On the other hand, while lactate is the most helpful in the initial phase of resuscitation, it is not as accurate in determining the ongoing causes of metabolic acidosis in critical situations outside of trauma where lactate may not elevate, such as respiratory alkalosis and diabetic ketoacidosis.

Serum bicarbonate will correlate with base deficit only when the pH is constant, which has clinical implications in the patient whose standard chemistry is drawn from a venous line at a different time than the arterial blood gas is collected [46]. The fluctuating pH may affect the accuracy of either measurement when compared to the other. There may be a significant difference in base deficit when comparing arterial to venous samples. Venous samples may be more sensitive to changes in pH, $p\text{CO}_2$, and $p\text{O}_2$ resulting in earlier changes in base deficit [47].

Coagulopathy, acidosis, and hypothermia portend the downward spiral into fulminant hemorrhagic shock. The key to understanding hemorrhagic shock is to understand the

interactions of the lethal triad and the human body's capacity to self-correct versus what must be medically and surgically repaired. Acidosis is a product of poor tissue perfusion and death at the cellular level [48]. Lactic acidosis is a finding associated with cellular anoxia. Free radical release during tissue hypoxia also contributes to overall organ dysfunction and further perpetuates the cascade [49]. The coagulopathy is secondary to dilution, platelet dysfunction, cellular damage, decreased hepatic synthesis of factors, and shunting of proteins away from creating coagulation factors and toward production of acute-phase reactants [50–53]. Hypothermia occurs secondary to decreased metabolism. It is also associated with infusion of cold or chilled blood products and crystalloid, and hypothermia itself contributes to continued perpetuation of coagulopathy [54]. Furthermore it is the mismatch between oxygen delivery and consumption with resultant organ dysfunction that defines the shock state [55]. All three elements of the lethal triad contribute and potentiate the death spiral after substantial bleeding. Interruption of this process is paramount to survival.

Hypothermia

Hypothermia, defined as a core temperature of less than 34° , is a definitive contributor to ongoing shock and ineffectiveness of resuscitation. It must be immediately corrected in the trauma patient who is coagulopathic [56]. Combat trauma physicians have experienced increased morbidity and mortality, likely due to the loss of function of platelets and coagulation factors, in hypothermic patients [57–60]. While the animal model has demonstrated survival benefit from mild hypothermia during initial resuscitation, coagulopathy in humans seems exacerbated by temperatures outside of physiologic range and is not recommended [61–63]. Moreover hypothermia does not have a role in the current resuscitation guidelines for hemorrhage and should not be employed, even if other clinical factors support its use. Heat loss is attributed to time spent in the field, exposure of the patient to external elements, chilled resuscitation fluid including blood product and crystalloid, air temperature in the emergency department and operating room, open body cavities during operation, and transport to a variety of locations without appropriate warming mechanisms. It is advised that the initial examination proceed with cognizance of the rapidity at which body heat is lost, and that patients be covered as quickly as possible with warm blankets. Bair huggers, ambient warming, institution of protocols that enforce use of hotlines or other mechanisms to warm fluid are all adjuncts to maintaining body temperature. Protocols for hypothermia avoidance are helpful in standardizing mechanisms for warming while bringing attention to this very important component of physiologic normalcy [64].

Crystalloid

There is no longer argument on the preferred resuscitation fluid for patients in hemorrhagic shock—it is maintained ratios of FFP, platelets, and blood—not crystalloid [65, 66]. Crystalloid should not be considered first line therapy for resuscitation in hemorrhagic shock in any facility where blood products are available. It seems intuitive that if a person is hemorrhaging, correction of that shock will be contingent on the repletion of blood, and that his or her coagulopathy will respond to transfusion of plasma and platelets. However, replacement of volume by crystalloid represents classical teaching and guidelines for correction of the initial phase of hemorrhagic shock [67]. Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) discusses placing two large-bore IVs and bolusing 1 l of crystalloid for any patient assumed to be in hemorrhagic shock or any patient with significant blood loss [2]. However, recent data suggest that as little as 1.5 l of fluid has negative clinical implications and numerous sources are refuting the benefit of large-volume crystalloid resuscitation in hemorrhagic shock [68].

While many clinicians consider lactated Ringer's and normal saline interchangeable, they are not. Multiple studies in the swine model compare the use of various crystalloid solutions, focusing on lactated Ringer's solution and normal saline. The swine model demonstrates that if shock is induced and maintained for 30 min, followed by resuscitation with either normal saline or lactated Ringer's solution, the animals resuscitated with Ringer's lactate have better improvement in markers of shock, pH, and extracellular lung water [69]. In this study neutrophil activation contributes to cellular damage. Other studies support the neutrophil activation phenomenon; dextran is the biggest activator, followed by normal saline and then lactated Ringer's [70]. Colloid, plasma, and blood have also been implicated as morbid contributors to effects on neutrophil activation, mainly in the pulmonary system [71–73].

Lactated Ringer's, as a resuscitation fluid, yields less acidosis and less coagulopathy than seen with similar volumes of normal saline [74]. Normal saline causes a well-recognized metabolic hyperchloremic acidosis; patients resuscitated with lactated Ringer's do not achieve such levels of acidosis. Furthermore, normal saline-resuscitated patients demonstrate more blood loss than those resuscitated with lactated Ringer's [75]. This has been demonstrated also in the vascular literature. In a study of aortic repairs it was shown that there was more perioperative bleeding and acidosis when normal saline was used as opposed to lactated Ringer's [76]. There was no statistically significant difference in outcome however. Even despite the better physiologic results with lactated Ringer's resuscitation as compared to normal saline, lactated Ringer's still would not be the first choice for resuscitation in a patient with hemorrhagic shock as excessive

bleeding is not well controlled with replacement of volume by crystalloid [77].

Another substitute for balanced crystalloid solution is Plasma-lyte, which has been shown to be cost effective and a potentially better crystalloid choice when compared to normal saline [78]. The enthusiasm for this fluid as a carrier and for maintenance may be due to the fact that it does not contain calcium and therefore can be infused with blood product without concern for crystallization of the line and less morbidity than other non-normal saline balanced fluids [79]. Importantly plasmalyte does not have the acidosis inducing profile of normal saline.

Permissive hypotension purposefully maintains mean arterial pressure as low as possible to ensure adequate organ perfusion. If the minimum mean arterial pressure is not exceeded with over-resuscitation, the delicate new clot formation should not be disrupted prior to operative intervention [80, 81]. These authors show that by purposefully maintaining mean arterial pressure no greater than 50 mmHg, the patients in these groups are not afflicted with coagulopathy to the same degree as controls that are resuscitated to a mean arterial pressure of greater than 65 mmHg. Earlier data from animal models show no difference in ultimate outcome when hypotension is maintained; end organ perfusion and prevention of metabolic perturbations that can occur when tissue oxygenation is inadequate are the goals of permissive hypotension [82]. That is to say that when metabolic acidosis is controlled and the mean arterial pressure is minimized on purpose, patients do not show any long-term adverse effects compared to patients whose resuscitation targets a higher mean arterial pressure. It is unclear how long patients can remain hypotensive without deleterious effects. The original descriptions of this concept date to World Wars 1 and 2. The original civilian studies on this topic show less intraoperative bleeding and overall fluid requirement and hence less postoperative morbidity when this strategy is applied [83]. Survival is improved by limiting crystalloid infusion. Furthermore overaggressive resuscitation to a physiologically normal blood pressure may contribute to ineffective hemostasis, termed “popping the clot,” shown in an animal study where raising the blood pressure caused re-bleeding and increased mortality [84]. This cycle of repeated resuscitation and bleeding is ultimately detrimental to clot stability and to overall survival [85].

Hypertonic Saline

Crystalloid evaluation would not be complete without consideration of hypertonic saline. Hypertonic saline use is pervasive throughout the literature. Prior to the recent explosion of blood product-based resuscitation, crystalloid resuscitation was the standard of care. Hypertonic saline shows some improvement in blood pressure and arguable survival difference for patients

who receive it in the pre-hospital setting [86]. Interest also exists in combat medicine where space, weight, and facility of transport of medical devices remain an important consideration. There are studies showing decreased pre-hospital fluid requirements in patients who receive hypertonic saline during transport [87]. Immunomodulatory effects are enhanced with single administration of 250 ml of hypertonic saline in the initial phase of resuscitation of hemorrhagic shock, and this could have additional effects on patients with later discovered head injury [88, 89]. A large study of hypertonic saline showed statistical difference in outcome in pediatric head-injured patients when compared with isotonic fluid administration [90]. Hypertonic saline decreases interstitial pressure and consequently decreases bowel edema, which may be a potential benefit of using it on the patient whose abdomen is still open [91, 92]. Animal studies in the 1990s showed that there was no protective effect or difference in outcome for the patient in hemorrhagic shock with a head injury [93]. Since that time several studies examining hypertonic saline as a resuscitative fluid have been terminated secondary to futility and concerns for patient safety [94, 95]. It is still debatable that hypertonic has a physiologic or survival advantage when compared to other crystalloid formulations when used as a primary resuscitation fluid [96].

The Role of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

One of the great follies occurring during the treatment of hemorrhagic shock is to perform advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) or cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for patients where source control is not achievable. There will not be meaningful survival for hemorrhagic shock with the institution of CPR alone; CPR has no role in the definitive treatment of hemorrhagic shock [2]. It is costly, resource intense, and potentially dangerous for healthcare workers when it is used for patients without survivable injury pattern. Until the source of the hemorrhage is controlled and intravascular volume restored after hypovolemic arrest, there is no other effective treatment option.

Emergency Room Thoracotomy

Although residents often consider it a rite of passage to perform the emergency room thoracotomy (ERT), the mature surgeon realizes that the ERT has its place in very few clinical circumstances (Table 1.2) [97]. With only a 2 % overall survival rate in blunt trauma, and a 35 % survival rate for patients with a single penetrating, quickly controllable injury and no or brief loss of vitals, a selective approach to deciding which patient qualifies for such an invasive maneuver is mandatory. Patients who are found down with no signs of life should not be considered for ERT.

Table 1.2 Current indications and contraindications for EDT

<i>Indications</i>
Salvageable post-injury cardiac arrest:
Patients sustaining witnessed penetrating trauma with <15 min of pre-hospital CPR
Patients sustaining witnessed blunt trauma with <5 min of pre-hospital CPR
Persistent severe post-injury hypotension (SBP $\leq$ 60 mmHg) due to:
Cardiac tamponade
Hemorrhage—intrathoracic, intra-abdominal, extremity, cervical
Air embolism
<i>Contraindications</i>
Penetrating trauma: CPR >15 min and no signs of life (pupillary response, respiratory effort, or motor activity)
Blunt trauma: CPR >5 min and no signs of life or asystole

From Mears G, Glickman SW, Moore F, Cairns CB. Data based integration of critical illness and injury patient care from EMS to emergency department to intensive care unit. *Curr Opin Crit Care*. 2009;15(4):284–9, with permission

If a patient has spontaneous return of vital signs during the critical maneuvers of the EDT, then transportation to the operating room for more definitive surgical management is appropriate.

REBOA

Resuscitative endovascular balloon occlusion of the aorta, REBOA, has recently emerged as a potential adjunct to resuscitative cases of hemorrhagic shock below the diaphragm [98]. While REBOA is not applied universally, there are case series showing a potential benefit in its use [99]. Trauma surgeons are also engaging in training of endovascular techniques and even completing vascular fellowships, thus minimizing human resources for cases of hemorrhagic shock needing embolization. The REBOA is deployed in a similar fashion to an endovascular balloon via femoral access by cutdown or direct puncture, dilatation. In some examples the aortic occlusion time is decreased compared to thoracic aortic cross clamping and the mean arterial pressure is increased until definitive management can occur. Successful deployment of the balloon also can mitigate pelvic packing and violation of the thoracic cavity. In a recent multi-center study published by Moore and colleagues, REBOA was found to have a higher survival rate as compared to resuscitative thoracotomy for patient with non-compressible torso hemorrhage arising from below the diaphragm [100]. The appropriate patient for REBOA consideration is one with high mortality risk, intra-abdominal exsanguination source, pelvic instability, and sustained systolic pressures lower than 70; in essence, REBOA should be considered in a patient who does not require thoracotomy but who would benefit from aortic occlusion [101].

Thromboelastogram (TEG)

TEG is used to guide decisions in goal-directed resuscitation or correction of coagulopathy or fibrinolysis. TEG is a plotted graph of the effectiveness of clot formation and breakdown, and is considered more accurate to identify causes of coagulopathy in the trauma patient than is a coagulation panel [102, 103]. Several reviews have failed to show a mortality difference in patients who are resuscitated using TEG guidance versus those who follow a standardized massive transfusion protocol; however, the authors note poor power of that aggregated data [104]. They also note that TEG can potentially reduce the amount of transfusions if interpreted and applied during hemorrhagic shock, but that the data on this point is not definitive.

The TEG curves can provide information about all aspects of the clotting system, possibly even the interactions with the endothelium, which is currently an ongoing area of research [105]. The initial part of the TEG, which comprises the R time, or the activated clotting time (ACT), illustrates the amount of time to begin forming a clot (Fig. 1.2). The K time shows how long it takes to reach clot strength and quantitates the clot kinetics [106], whereas the alpha angle and the maximal amplitude (MA) show the rate of clot formation and the absolute clot strength indicating a relationship between fibrinogen and platelets, respectively. A low angle reflects a low fibrinogen concentration; a low MA means that the platelet count or function is reduced and the patient would benefit from platelet transfusion or desmopressin (DDAVP). The LY30 indicates the stability of the clot and the degree of fibrinolysis. The G value shows clot strength or firmness [107].

Normal ACT, R time, and K time indicate that clotting factors are intact and functional. Delays in any of these mean that the patient would most benefit from the administration of FFP or factor; additionally, it can reflect a patient on heparin or other medication that impairs clotting. The angle and MA reflect platelet function and an increase in either suggests

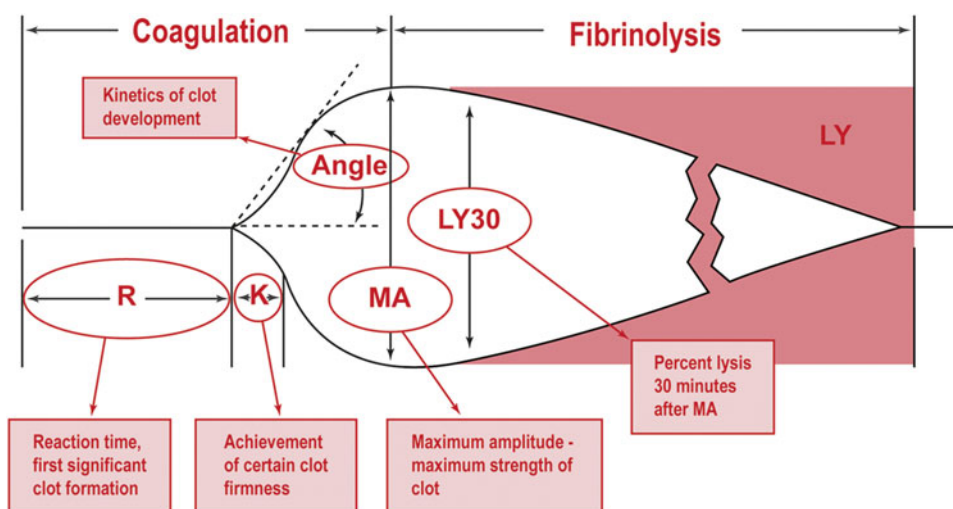
hypercoagulable state, whereas a decrease in either means that the platelets may not be aggregating properly. In patients with an elevated MA there is argument for administration of a daily aspirin or placement of an IVC filter [108]. It has been shown that an MA greater than 68 correlates with an increase in coagulability, predisposing patients to thromboembolism [109]. LY30 greater than 3 % has significant consequences of increased mortality and use of antifibrinolytic therapy to target hyperfibrinolysis will be discussed below [110–113].

Damage Control Resuscitation

Damage control resuscitation is a term coined in the military [114, 115]. It is a reproducible strategy with reproducible results and it is automatic and continuous until a physician decides that the shock state has resolved and that hemostasis has been achieved. It describes a resuscitation that uses replacement blood product, rather than crystalloid, for hemorrhagic shock. By limiting the crystalloid infused in the initial resuscitation, patients appear to have less complications and morbidity [116, 117]. There are fewer reports of compartment syndromes, a higher number of abdomens that can be closed after a damage control laparotomy, less acidosis, and less electrolyte disturbances.

PROPPR shows that using a 1:1:1 ratio for massive transfusion reduced mortality at 3 h in centers where product was immediately available [118]. By mitigating the onset of coagulopathy within the timeframe of predictable hemorrhagic death, mortality can be prevented. Many centers now utilize a strategy of blood product resuscitation and limitation of crystalloid allocation [119]. For example, Cotton and colleagues investigated the success of the trauma laparotomy when damage control resuscitation in a 1:1:1 ratio and limited crystalloid were implemented. This strategy of damage control resuscitation was found to be useful in the field. Patients in the damage control resuscitation group received

Fig. 1.2 Analytical software graphical representation of a TEG tracing. *R* initial time, *K* time it takes to reach clot strength, *MA* maximal amplitude, *LY* lysis. (From Mark H. Ereth, MD. Uncontrolled bleeding after thoracic aortic aneurysm repair: a case report and interactive discussion. <http://www.bloodmccenter.org>, with permission.)



approximately 10 liters less of crystalloid in the first 24 h, had better short- and long-term survival, and showed signs of being less acidotic, less coagulopathic, and less hypothermic on arrival to the ICU than patients who received a traditional resuscitation. The study was a retrospective cohort that examined two similar groups of patients, finding improved morbidity and mortality rates in the group receiving better ratios and colloid. Secondary analyses showed statistically significant differences in multi-organ failure, acute lung and kidney injury, and their effects.

The length of time it takes to get access to FFP plays a role in the success of a massive transfusion protocol. Several studies have examined time factors in receiving product as a way to analyze the effectiveness of a massive transfusion protocol [120–122]. Thawed plasma improved availability and adherence to the 1:1:1 in 12 nationwide trauma centers participating in PROPPR [123]. These data showed an improvement in infusion time interval from 56 min to less than 5 min, which is associated with improved outcomes. Multiple centers are now using never frozen liquid plasma, which has up to 25 day storage at 4 °C [124]. This product combines rapid availability with much longer storage times.

Data is conflicting on the benefit of tranexamic acid (TXA) on outcome in patients with hyperfibrinolysis. While a Cochrane Review in 2012 showed that risk of death in bleeding patients with hypotension is reduced with early TXA, Harvin et al. showed no improvement in 30-day or in-hospital mortality [125, 126]. CRASH-2 showed that TXA was not specifically causative to thromboembolic events. Napolitano et al. review the current data and lingering questions regarding TXA in hemorrhagic shock [127].

Improved overall survival at 30 days and improved hemorrhage related survival without any difference in transfusion requirement was shown in the CRASH 2 trial. The antifibrinolytic was given despite the lack of laboratory data, and when infused more than three h after injury, death was increased. Based on the uncertainty created by the increased death rate, several leading centers have restricted the use of TXA to patients with increased fibrinolysis shown by TEG and presenting early after their traumatic event. Until further randomized data are published this seems like a reasonable approach.

Complications of Resuscitation

Data from the days when trauma patients were resuscitated with multiple liters of saline prior to receiving their first blood product shows complications related to the overwhelming volume of crystalloid infused [128–130]. These types of complications include compartment syndromes, high number of abdomens that cannot be closed, and grossly edematous bowel, all secondary to large volume resuscitation [131]. Complications of transfusion-related acute lung injury (TRALI) and transfusion-associated circulatory overload

(TACO) are not seen frequently because the base resuscitative fluid is colloid at relatively lower volumes than a crystalloid based resuscitation [132–134]. Ileus, heart failure, and difficulty with wound healing have all additionally been attributed to over-resuscitation with crystalloid.

All trauma patients who receive a massive resuscitation remain at risk of abdominal compartment syndrome, but this complication appears better mitigated when low ratio of crystalloid to blood product is given. One study claimed that there would be an epidemic if crystalloid resuscitations are continued with such fervor and that patients were threatened by secondary compartment syndrome that occurs solely as the result of excessive crystalloid resuscitation during hemorrhagic shock [135]. Abdominal hypertension is defined as any pressure greater than 12 mmHg without evidence of multi-organ failure. Abdominal compartment syndrome is defined as any one of the following: pressure greater than 20 mmHg; progressive, identifiable organ dysfunction; and improvement following decompression. The trauma population is susceptible, even those who lack abdominal injuries and develop elevated pressures simply due to the amount of fluid they receive. In Houston during the late 1990s the resuscitations during the first 24 h for a group of 128 patients requiring decompression for organ dysfunction averaged the following volumes: (26±2 units PRBC, 38±3 l crystalloid). Seven of these cases required urgent non-abdominal operations, where they likely received several additional units of crystalloid or colloid [136].

It is recommended to check bladder pressures and peak inspiratory pressures routinely and aggressively in patients where massive transfusion has taken place [137]. This practice of serially checking bladder pressures, based on observational data, seems to help in the early identification of intra-abdominal hypertension, perhaps staving off the evolution to abdominal compartment syndrome [138]. Decompression can be done with placement of a temporary dressing and later planned closure with evidence of better results and earlier closure [139, 140].

Keeping the abdomen open after a damage control laparotomy also has its disadvantages. It has been shown that ileus and bowel edema prevent advancement of feeds and definitive closure, and that these phenomena are likely related to an ongoing inflammatory response that occurs as a result of the sustained acute resuscitative phase [141–143]. It is additionally unclear whether ileus is a cause or an effect of bowel edema and vice versa [144, 145]. Administration of 3% hypertonic saline during the time that the abdomen is open has been shown in a small series to decrease bowel edema. The mechanism is thought to be due to hydrostatic gut edema induced by overaggressive resuscitation with crystalloid. The hypertonic saline gives a smaller volume of more concentrated solution, and pulls extra edematous fluid from the bowel wall. Success has been shown in the rat and subsequently in the human model.

Using Ultrasound to Determine Volume Status

Distinguishing compensated shock from impending complete cardiovascular collapse can be difficult. Understanding physiology and volume status on a global scale seems straightforward—it is the clinical application of these principles to the individual patient that creates a conundrum for identifying the degree of shock. While CVP, monitoring derived from arterial wave forms, intraesophageal echo, urine output and vital signs have all been described for assessment of fluid status, there is also potential benefit in using non-invasive US. Given the application of focused assessment with sonography in trauma (FAST) exam, there has been some interest in examination of the inferior vena cava (IVC) volume during the initial assessment. This is a non-invasive, accurate, and rapid way to assess the patient's overall volume status and is easy to repeat. The technique has been described as placing the patient in the supine position and angling the probe toward the right shoulder from a subcostal view. The IVC can be measured at the entrance of the hepatic veins. Measuring in expiration appears to yield the most accurate measurement. Several small studies demonstrate that measurements of IVC diameter are incredibly fast, non-invasive, accurate measures to determine if shock is present [146–149]. Of note there can be error in measuring the IVC diameter; when accounting for volume variability, the anterior–posterior measurement has been found to be less precise than measurements taken on the oblique axis. In this manuscript the minor axis was defined as the shorter axis when the IVC was viewed as an ellipse shape in horizontal orientation. Trauma patients were included in the study if they were noted to be hypovolemic on the initial ultrasound (minor axis measurement less than 15 mm, consistently measured one cm below the renal vessels) and if they received a computed tomography (CT) scan of their abdomen to further confirm results within 1 h of their diagnosis of hypovolemia. Expected expansion after fluid resuscitation was approximately 7 mm in the minor axis. It remains to be seen if this technique can be widely applied and reliably instituted as a means to identify patients who are volume depleted or dependent and guide resuscitation

Conclusion

Resuscitation is an art and requires attention to detail at all stages including pre-hospital, hospital, operating room, and ICU. The salient points from this chapter focus on understanding shock, providing deficient products, using TEG to guide resuscitation and identifying endpoints. Interested readers are encouraged to focus on several of the resources below to enhance their knowledge and perfect their resuscitation abilities.

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Introduction and Epidemiology

Abdominal pain is one of the most common reasons for visits to the emergency room, comprising 7 % of all visits [1]. Although for the majority of patients, symptoms are benign and self-limited, a subset will be diagnosed with an “acute abdomen,” as a result of serious intra-abdominal pathology necessitating emergency intervention [2].

An expeditious workup and Epidemiology is necessary when evaluating patients presenting with acute abdominal pain to determine the most likely cause of their symptoms and determine whether or not emergent operative intervention is necessary. The most appropriate therapy should then be initiated with the patient’s clinical status optimized. The workup should first include a thorough but efficient acquisition of the patient’s history and physical examination followed by the judicious use of laboratory and radiologic studies. The evaluation of patients with acute abdominal pain can pose a diagnostic challenge for physicians as patients may present with atypical symptoms that interfere with the usual pattern recognition that often guides decision making. These atypical presentations may help account for the over 25 % of abdominal pain cases labeled as “nonspecific” or “undifferentiated” [2].

Additionally, physicians must take into account the patient’s age, gender, and comorbidities as conditions associated with the acute abdomen may vary accordingly. Specifically, gastroenteritis, acute appendicitis, and abdominal trauma are common causes of the acute abdomen in children and young adults [3], whereas biliary disease, intestinal obstruction, diverticulitis, and appendicitis are among the most common causes in middle-aged adults and the elderly [4]. Furthermore, pelvic pathology accounts for

approximately 12 % of acute abdominal pain presentations and should therefore be considered when evaluating female patients [2].

Finally, there are a variety of nonsurgical causes of abdominal pain that are cardiovascular, metabolic, and toxic in origin that should be considered when evaluating these patients.

Clinical Presentation

A thorough, yet expeditiously obtained, history and physical exam is paramount to developing the differential diagnosis for patients presenting with an acute abdomen. Various laboratory and imaging studies may subsequently be used as adjuncts to help guide decision making.

History

When obtaining a patient history, the physician should avoid questions that are leading and should focus on details of the pain. This includes information on the onset, character, duration, and location of pain as well as the presence of radiation of pain.

Regarding onset, pain that develops suddenly may be suggestive of a perforated viscus or ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA). Pain that gradually worsens over time may be the result of conditions characterized by the progressive development of infection and inflammation such as acute appendicitis and cholecystitis.

With regard to character, pain described as “burning” may implicate the pain of a perforated peptic ulcer while a “ripping” or “tearing” sensation typically represents the pain of an aortic dissection. Pain that is intermittent or colicky should be distinguished from pain that is continuous in nature. Colicky pain is typically associated with obstructive processes of the intestinal, hepatobiliary, or genitourinary tract, while pain that is continuous is usually the result of

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underlying ischemia or peritoneal inflammation. The latter may occur primarily or following an initial episode of colicky pain when an obstructive process is complicated by the development of ischemia. Examples of this include cases of biliary colic that progresses to acute cholecystitis or an incarcerated loop of intestine that becomes strangulated and ischemic.

The location of pain is important to consider as various pathologic conditions tend to occur in specific regions or quadrants of the abdomen (Fig. 2.1a, b). Therefore, if the physician is knowledgeable of the disease processes that cause pain in these areas, they may be able to significantly narrow down their differential. This holds true for those with the understanding that certain conditions may result in pain that radiates or is referred to an area beyond the site of disease due to shared innervation. Classic examples of this include biliary pain that is referred to the right subscapular region, the pain of acute pancreatitis that radiates to the back, and genitourinary pain that radiates from the flank down to the groin. Finally, it is important to note any chronological variation in the pain as this may provide helpful clues to the diagnosis. One of the best examples of this is in the case of acute appendicitis, in which pain is initially perceived in the periumbilical region before localizing to the right lower quadrant (RLQ). This phenomenon reflects the transition from visceral to parietal pain as appendiceal inflammation progresses to involve and irritate the peritoneal lining.

The majority of patients presenting with acute abdominal pain have associating symptoms (e.g., nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, constipation, hematochezia) that are often helpful in making a diagnosis. Chronology of nausea is important to consider as vomiting that occurs after the onset of abdominal pain is more likely to be surgical in nature as a result of medullary vomiting centers that are stimulated by pain impulses traveling via secondary visceral afferent fibers. Additionally, constipation or obstipation may point towards an intestinal obstruction, while diarrhea (especially if bloody) is associated with gastroenteritis, inflammatory bowel disease, and intestinal ischemia.

Aggravating or alleviating factors may also provide diagnostic clues. Depending on the underlying etiology, patients may maintain certain positions to help alleviate their pain. For example, patients with peritonitis may find some relief when lying still with their knees bent, while patients suffering from a bout of acute pancreatitis prefer to sit upright and lean forward. The effect of food is also important to consider as eating may alleviate the pain of a peptic ulcer while worsening the pain of an intestinal obstruction, acute cholecystitis, or acute pancreatitis [5, 6].

The patient's past medical and surgical histories may also help to narrow down the differential. A remote history of abdominal surgery may indicate that intestinal obstruction secondary to adhesive disease is the source of a patient's

complaints. Furthermore, it is important to consider the impact that coexistent medical conditions, such as diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and atherosclerosis, may have on patient outcomes. The fact that elderly patients are more likely to have significant comorbidities places them at increased risk for end organ damage incited by gastrointestinal emergencies [7].

Physicians should also take into account the effects of medication use. Anticoagulants may predispose to the development of rectus sheath hematomas and precipitate the gastrointestinal bleeding that is a component of the patient's underlying illness or complicating the patient's postoperative or posttreatment course. Chronic use of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) may also promote bleeding episodes along with the development of peptic ulcer disease (PUD) and its complications.

A detailed social history should also be obtained to determine if there is any significant history of tobacco, alcohol, or illicit drug use, as such behaviors can be a source of the patient's symptoms as well as complicate the patient's hospital course. Notably, a history of cocaine abuse may point towards a diagnosis of mesenteric ischemia as the underlying reason for the patient's symptoms.

The social history should consist of a detailed gynecologic history, including the date of the last menses, the presence of any vaginal bleeding or discharge, and any history of unprotected sexual activity or intercourse with multiple partners. Such information could indicate pregnancy complications, salpingitis or pelvic inflammatory disease, and other gynecologic conditions as the cause of the patient's acute abdominal complaints. Physicians should also take note of any history of recent travel to implicate infectious enterocolitis. Any exposure to environmental toxins should be determined, as lead and iron poisoning are two well-known, extra-abdominal sources of acute abdominal pain [5, 6].

Finally, the patient's family history may ascertain whether a patient's symptoms are hereditary in origin, as seen in the case of inherited hypercoagulable states, which can cause acute mesenteric ischemia secondary to mesenteric venous thrombosis.

Physical Examination

Examination of the patient presenting with acute abdominal pain should initially begin with overall appearance of the patient and vital signs. Patients who appear diaphoretic, pale, and anxious often suffer from a condition of vascular origin, including dissecting AAA, mesenteric ischemia, or atypical angina. The patient who is lying particularly still on the exam table often has peritonitis from perforated viscus or pancreatitis. Vital signs should always be interpreted knowing the status of the patient's pain, or the influence of any home