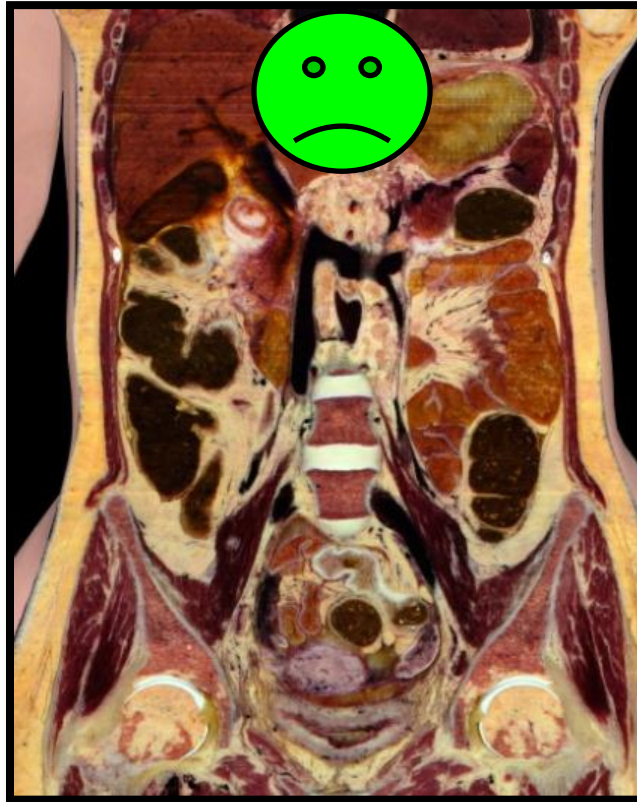


Epigastric Pain: the Pancreas



Howard J. Sachs, MD
www.12DaysinMarch.com

Epigastric Pain



Epigastric Pain

Gastro-duodenal

Pancreas

Honorable Mention:
Hepatobiliary
Vascular
Esophageal

Epigastric Pain

Gastro-duodenal

Gastritis
Ulcer
Neoplasm

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute
Pancreatitis, chronic
Neoplasm
(adenocarcinoma, neuroendocrine)

Epigastric Pain

Gastro-duodenal

Gastritis
Ulcer
Neoplasm

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute
Pancreatitis, chronic
Neoplasm
(adenocarcinoma, neuroendocrine)

What are the modifiers?

- Demographics/Risk Factors
- Clinical Presentation/Diagnostic Features
- Complications/Paraneoplastic syndromes
- Pathology

Epigastric Pain: Demographics/Risk Factors

Gastro-duodenal

Gastritis
Ulcer
Neoplasm

NSAIDs
H. pylori

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute
Pancreatitis, chronic
Neoplasm
(adenocarcinoma, neuroendocrine)

Epigastric Pain: Demographics/Risk Factors

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute

Etoh, Stone,
Hypertriglyceridemia

Pancreatitis, chronic

Neoplasm
AdenoCa
Neuroendocrine

Epigastric Pain: Demographics/Risk Factors

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute

Etoh, Stone,
Hypertriglyceridemia

Pancreatitis, chronic

Neoplasm
AdenoCa
rine

Etoh: AST:ALT ratio (2:1); MCV ↑; GGTP ↑



Epigastric Pain: Demographics/Risk Factors

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute

Pancreatitis, chronic

Neoplasm
AdenoCa
Neuroendocrine

Etoh, Stone,
Hypertriglyceridemia

Etoh: AST:ALT ratio (2:1); MCV ↑; GGTP ↑

Stone: symptoms after fatty meal

Epigastric Pain: Demographics/Risk Factors

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute

Pancreatitis, chronic

Neoplasm
AdenoCa
Neuroendocrine

Etoh, Stone,
Hypertriglyceridemia

Etoh: AST:ALT ratio (2:1); MCV ↑; GGTP ↑

Stone: symptoms after fatty meal

Trigs > 1000 mg/dL: Which of the following would be the best initial rx?

Epigastric Pain: Demographics/Risk Factors

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute

Pancreatitis, chronic

Neoplasm
AdenoCa
Neuroendocrine

Etoh, Stone,
Hypertriglyceridemia

Trigs > 1000: Which of the following would be the best initial rx?

Answer: Fibrates (clofibrate, fenofibrate, gemfibrozil)

MOA: upregulation of lipoprotein lipase; \uparrow PPAR- α \rightarrow \downarrow VLDL (\uparrow HDL synthesis)

Epigastric Pain: Demographics/Risk Factors

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute

Pancreatitis, chronic

Etoh, Cystic Fibrosis (CF)

Neoplasm
AdenoCa
Neuroendocrine

Epigastric Pain: Demographics/Risk Factors

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute

Pancreatitis, chronic

Etoh, Cystic Fibrosis (CF)

Neoplasm
AdenoCa
Neuroendocrine

Etoh: repeated hospitalizations for abdominal pain

Epigastric Pain: Demographics/Risk Factors

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute

Pancreatitis, chronic

Etoh, Cystic Fibrosis (CF)

Neoplasm
AdenoCa
Neuroendocrine

Etoh: repeated hospitalizations for abdominal pain

CF: Fat-soluble vitamin deficiency (steatorrhea)

A - night vision (nyctalopia), skin dryness

D - bone fragility fractures, hypocalcemia

E - hemolysis, neuromuscular

K - stigmata of \uparrow PT/PTT: bruising/bleeding

Epigastric Pain: Demographics/Risk Factors

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute

Pancreatitis, chronic

Neoplasm
AdenoCa
Neuroendocrine

AdenoCa: Tobacco, Chronic Pancreatitis

Neuroendocrine (Gastrinoma, Insulinoma): FH MEN 1 (PTH, Pituitary)

Epigastric Pain

Gastro-duodenal

Gastritis
Ulcer
Neoplasm

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute
Pancreatitis, chronic
Neoplasm
(adenocarcinoma, neuroendocrine)

What are the **modifiers**?

- Demographics/Risk Factors
- **Clinical Presentation/Diagnostic Features**
- Complications/Paraneoplastic syndromes
- Pathology

Epigastric Pain: *Clinical Presentation/Diagnostic Features*

Gastro-duodenal

Gastritis
Ulcer
Neoplasm

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute
Pancreatitis, chronic
Neoplasm
(adenocarcinoma, neuroendocrine)

- Bleeding (overt/IDA)
- EGD
- Microbiologic characteristics of H pylori

Epigastric Pain: *Clinical Presentation/Diagnostic Features*

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute

Pain → back

Pancreatitis, chronic

Neoplasm
AdenoCa
Neuroendocrine

Epigastric Pain: *Clinical Presentation/Diagnostic Features*

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute

Pain → back

Lab: ↑ Amylase, Lipase

Pancreatitis, chronic

Neoplasm
AdenoCa
Neuroendocrine

Test	Result
Lipase	> 600 U/L

Test	Result
Amylase	1322 U/L

Epigastric Pain: *Clinical Presentation/Diagnostic Features*

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute

Pain → back

Lab: ↑ Amylase, Lipase

Pancreatitis, chronic

Neoplasm
AdenoCa
Neuroendocrine

Scoring Systems (Ranson's): used to predict severity and complications; these are **NOT** diagnostic features

Epigastric Pain: *Clinical Presentation/Diagnostic Features*

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute

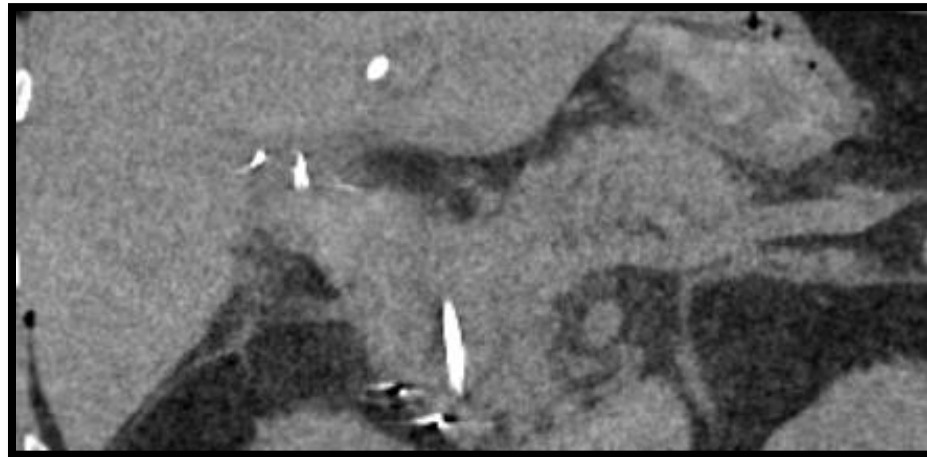
Pain → back

Lab: ↑ Amylase, Lipase

Imaging: CT, U/S

Pancreatitis, chronic

Neoplasm
AdenoCa
Neuroendocrine



Epigastric Pain: *Clinical Presentation/Diagnostic Features*

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute

Pancreatitis, chronic

Neoplasm
AdenoCa
Neuroendocrine

h/o pain → steatorrhea

CF: Fat-soluble vitamin deficiency (steatorrhea)

A - night vision (nyctalopia), skin dryness

D - bone fragility fractures, hypocalcemia

E - hemolysis, neuromuscular

K - *stigmata of ↑ PT/PTT: bruising/bleeding*

A - Retinol, Carotene

D - 25-(OH)VitD

E - α-tocopherol

K - *↑ PT/PTT*

B-12 level (tryptase → R-protein)

Fecal fat (qualitative → quantitative)

- Sudan stain (black or red)

Epigastric Pain: *Clinical Presentation/Diagnostic Features*

Pancreas

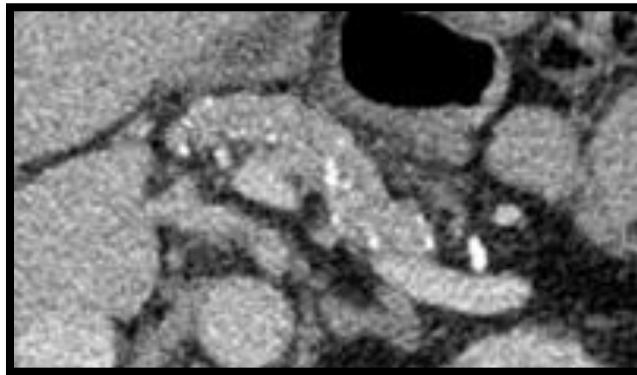
Pancreatitis, acute

Pancreatitis, chronic

h/o pain → steatorrhea

Imaging: AXR, CT

Neoplasm
AdenoCa
Neuroendocrine



Epigastric Pain: *Clinical Presentation/Diagnostic Features*

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute

Pancreatitis, chronic

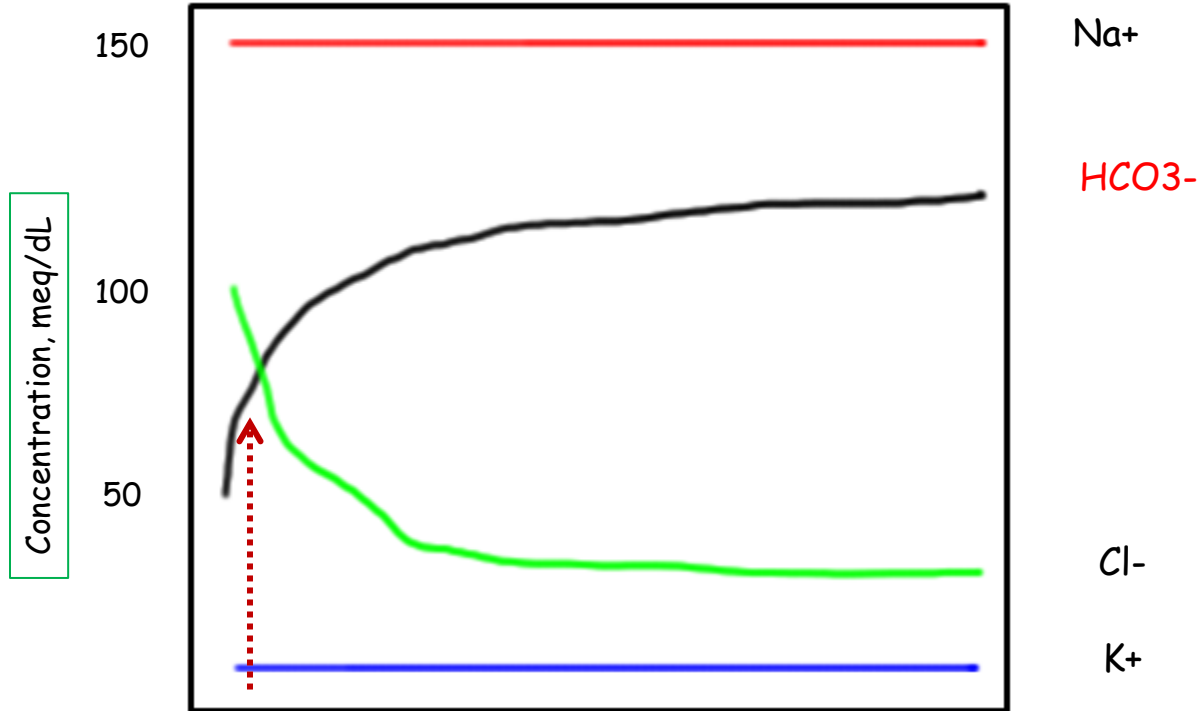
Neoplasm
AdenoCa
Neuroendocrine

h/o pain → steatorrhea

Imaging: AXR, CT

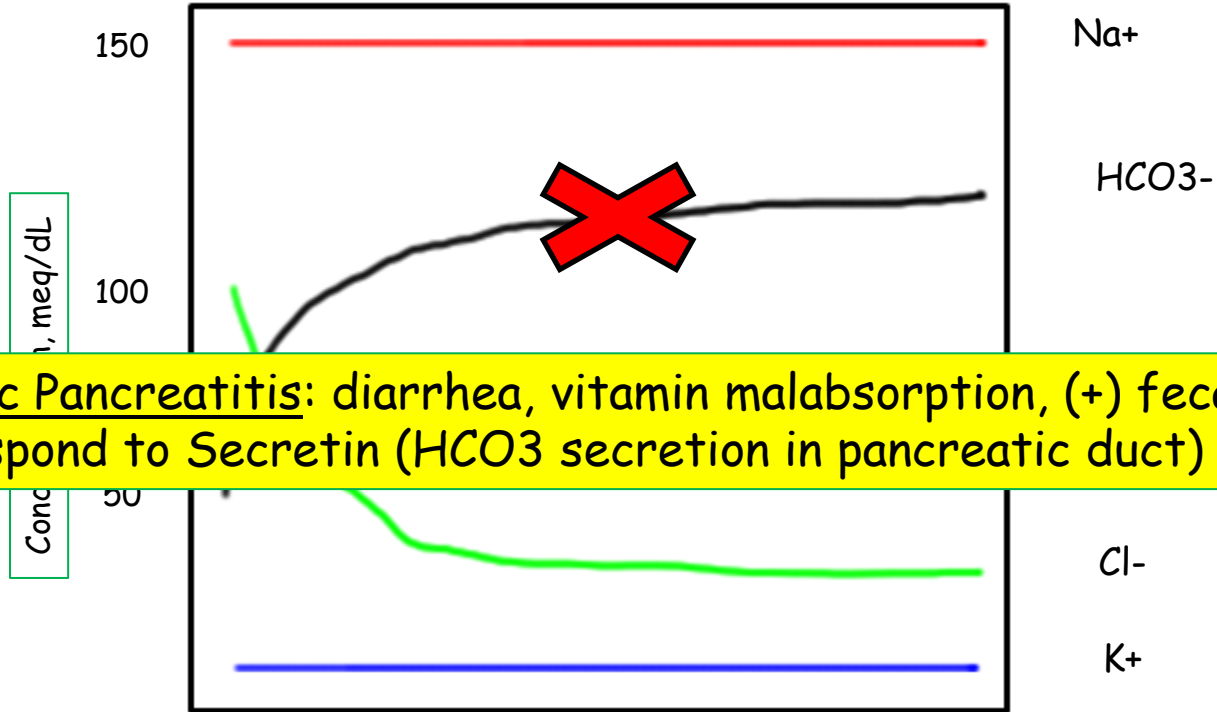
Provocative Test: Secretin Stimulation Test

Composition of Pancreatic Fluid



Secretin → Pancreatic HCO₃⁻ secretion
(S-cells of duodenum in response acidic chyme)

Composition of Pancreatic Fluid



Chronic Pancreatitis: diarrhea, vitamin malabsorption, (+) fecal fat
Failure to respond to Secretin (HCO₃ secretion in pancreatic duct) confirms dx

Epigastric Pain: *Clinical Presentation/Diagnostic Features*

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute

Pancreatitis, chronic

Neoplasm
AdenoCa
Neuroendocrine

AdenoCa:

Symptoms: Weight loss, (obstructive) jaundice ('**acholic**' stool)
Imaging (U/S, CT, MRI, ERCP, EUS): Pancreatic mass, (dilated ducts)

Labs: Φ

Epigastric Pain: *Clinical Presentation/Diagnostic Features*

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute

Pancreatitis, chronic

Neoplasm
AdenoCa
Neuroendocrine

AdenoCa:

Symptoms: Weight loss, (obstructive) jaundice

Imaging (U/S, CT, MRI, ERCP/EUS): Pancreatic mass, (dilated ducts)

Labs: Φ

Labs: **CA19-9 (serial assessment of established disease)**

Epigastric Pain: *Clinical Presentation/Diagnostic Features*

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute

Pancreatitis, chronic

Neoplasm
AdenoCa
Neuroendocrine

Neuroendocrine: FH **MEN 1** (Pancreas, PTH, Pituitary)

Gastrinoma: atypical ulcers (multiple, non-D1, refractory), diarrhea

Epigastric Pain: Clinical Presentation/Diagnostic Features

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute

Pancreatitis, chronic

Neoplasm
AdenoCa
Neuroendocrine

Neuroendocrine: FH **MEN 1** (Pancreas, PTH, Pituitary)

Gastrinoma: atypical ulcers (multiple, non-D1, refractory), diarrhea

Labs: ↑ Gastrin (off PPI; Secretin stimulation → increases gastrin)

Imaging: Pancreatic mass (**not gastric**)

Test	Result
Gastrin, Serum	135 pg/mL



Test	Result
Gastrin, Serum	496 pg/mL

Epigastric Pain: *Clinical Presentation/Diagnostic Features*

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute

Pancreatitis, chronic

Neoplasm
AdenoCa
Neuroendocrine

Neuroendocrine: FH **MEN 1** (Pancreas, PTH, Pituitary)

Gastrinoma: atypical ulcers (multiple, non-D1, refractory)

Labs: ↑ Gastrin (off PPI; Secretin stimulation test)

Imaging: Pancreatic mass (**not gastric**)



Epigastric Pain: *Clinical Presentation/Diagnostic Features*

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute

Pancreatitis, chronic

Neoplasm
AdenoCa
Neuroendocrine

Neuroendocrine: FH **MEN 1** (Pancreas, PTH, Pituitary)

Gastrinoma: atypical ulcers (multiple, non-D1, refractory), diarrhea, ↑ gastrin

Insulinoma: hypoglycemia, elevated C-peptide

PTH: hyperCa⁺²/low phosphate, stones, subperiosteal bone lesions

Pituitary: mass effect, s/s prolactinoma

Epigastric Pain

Gastro-duodenal

Gastritis
Ulcer
Neoplasm

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute
Pancreatitis, chronic
Neoplasm
(adenocarcinoma, neuroendocrine)

What are the **modifiers**?

- Demographics/Risk Factors
- Clinical Presentation/Diagnostic Features
- Complications/Paraneoplastic syndromes
- **Pathology**

Epigastric Pain: **Complications/Paraneoplastic/Pathology**

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute

Pancreatitis, chronic

Neoplasm
AdenoCa
Neuroendocrine

ARDS/SIRS



Patient presents after Etoh binge with amylase of 500 U/L. 2 days later he is SOB and CXR obtained. Lung biopsy would reveal?

Epigastric Pain: **Complications/Paraneoplastic/Pathology**

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute

Pancreatitis, chronic

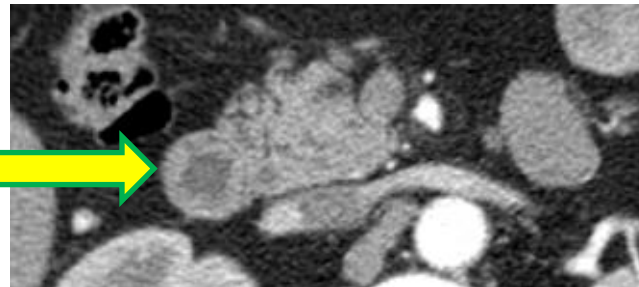
Neoplasm
AdenoCa
Neuroendocrine

ARDS/SIRS

Fat Necrosis: dystrophic calcification ('white chalky deposits')

Pseudocyst: granulation tissue and fibrosis; **NO epithelial lining**

Granulation Tissue



Epigastric Pain: **Complications/Paraneoplastic/Pathology**

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute

Pancreatitis, chronic

Neoplasm
AdenoCa
Neuroendocrine

Exocrine dysfunction: Rx enzyme replacement
Endocrine dysfunction: Diabetes

Epigastric Pain: **Complications/Paraneoplastic/Pathology**

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute

Pancreatitis, chronic

Neoplasm
AdenoCa
Neuroendocrine

Exocrine dysfunction
Endocrine dysfunction: Diabetes
AdenoCa: weak association

Patient with s/s chronic
pancreatitis is at risk of developing
which of the following?

Epigastric Pain: **Complications/Paraneoplastic/Pathology**

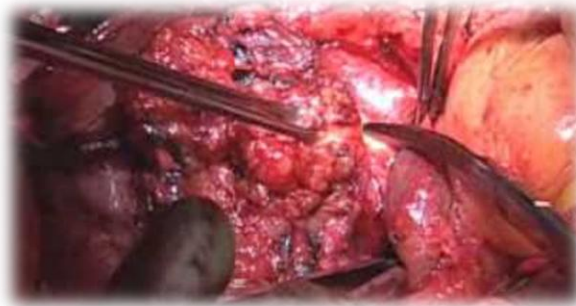
Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute

Pancreatitis, chronic

Neoplasm
AdenoCa
Neuroendocrine

AdenoCa: **Migratory Thrombophlebitis**



Epigastric Pain: **Complications/Paraneoplastic/Pathology**

Pancreas

Pancreatitis, acute

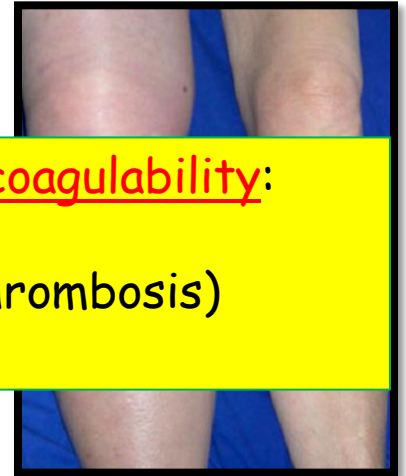
Pancreatitis, chronic

Neoplasm
AdenoCa
Neuroendocrine

AdenoCa: **Migratory Thrombophlebitis**

Other malignancies that will be presented with hypercoagulability:

- Polycythemia vera (Budd-Chiari, Portal Vein Thrombosis)
- Renal cell carcinoma (Renal Vein Thrombosis)



Epigastric Pain

Gastro-duodenal

Pancreas

Honorable Mention:
Hepatobiliary
Vascular
Esophagus

Pancreatitis, acute

Pancreatitis, chronic

Neoplasm
AdenoCa
Neuroendocrine

This is how USMLE uses **modifiers** to get you to the promised land?

- Demographics/Risk Factors
- Clinical Presentation/Diagnostic Features
- Complications/Paraneoplastic syndromes
- Pathology

the Index Cards

Me: Take Less Notes, Not More...

Student: What is the material I need to know???

Acute Pancreatitis

- Demographics/Risk Factors
 - Etoh, Stone, Hypertriglyceridemia
- Clinical Presentation/Diagnostic Features
 - Epigastric pain radiating to back
 - Data:
 - Lab: ↑ Amylase/Lipase
 - Imaging: CT/US
- Complications/Pathology
 - ARDS/SIRS: organ failure
 - Fat necrosis (with calcifications: 'chalky deposits')
 - Pseudocyst: no epithelial lining (granulation tissue)

Chronic Pancreatitis

- Demographics/Risk Factors
 - Etoh, Cystic Fibrosis
- Clinical Presentation/Diagnostic Features
 - h/o recurrent epigastric pain → steatorrhea
 - Data:
 - Lab: Manifestations of Fat-Soluble Vitamin Deficiency
 - (+) fecal fat
 - Imaging: AXR/CT - calcifications
 - Provocative Testing: Secretin Stimulation (failure of HCO_3^-)
- Complications/Pathology
 - Endocrine failure: Diabetes
 - Exocrine failure: Rx with pancreatic enzymes

Pancreas, Neoplasm

- Demographics/Risk Factors
 - AdenoCa: Tobacco, Chronic Pancreatitis
 - Neuroendocrine: FH MEN-1
- Clinical Presentation/Diagnostic Features
 - AdenoCa: wt loss, obstructive jaundice (acholic stool)
 - Imaging: Multimodality (U/S, CT, MRI, ERCP)
 - Labs: serial assessment CA19-9 (not diagnostic test)
 - Neuroendocrine: atypical ulcers (gastrinoma), hypoglycemia (insulinoma)
 - Labs: Gastrin, C-peptide (MEN-1: PTH, Pituitary)
 - Provocative Test: Secretin Stimulation
 - Imaging: CT
- Complications/Pathology
 - AdenoCa: Migratory Thrombophlebitis

Epigastric Pain: the Pancreas



Howard J. Sachs, MD

E-mail:

Howard@12DaysinMarch.com