LEARNING OBJECTIVES

On completion of the chapter, the reader will be able to:

1. Recognize GI warning signs and symptoms.
2. List the components of a patient history as it relates to the GI tract.
3. List pertinent questions that should be included in a comprehensive GI patient history.
4. Determine from a medication history, which agents are associated with GI injury.
5. Assess various laboratory tests for their role in assessment of GI organ function, screening of GI disorders, and evaluation of the effectiveness of therapy.
6. Determine the usefulness of microbiologic test in the evaluation of unexplained diarrhea, abdominal pain, and suspected GI infections.
7. Describe the usefulness of radiologic procedures in the evaluation and interpretation of GI disorders.
8. Compare barium sulfate and gastrograffin contrast agents in the study of the GI tract.
9. Describe general preparation of the GI tract prior to a lower GI series or sigmoidoscopy.
10. List advantages of imaging studies of the GI tract.
11. List anatomical areas that can be visualized by endoscopy.
12. Describe the similarities and differences between endoscopy and capsule endoscopy.
13. Determine the gold standard test for evaluation of patients with complaints of gastroesophageal reflux disease.
14. Assess the usefulness of esophageal pH monitoring in patients who fail to respond to acid-suppressive drug therapy.
15. Determine the usefulness of esophageal manometry in assessment of esophageal motor functions.