Diarrhea, Constipation, and Irritable Bowel Syndrome

Patricia H. Fabel and Kayce M. Shealy

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

1. Identify the common causative organisms of bacterial and viral infectious diarrhea.
2. Differentiate acute from chronic diarrhea, in terms of onset and duration of symptoms.
3. Explain the three mechanisms of absorption from the intestines and the four general pathophysiologic mechanisms of diarrhea.
4. List the five therapeutic goals in the treatment of diarrhea.
5. List factors correlated with the prevention of diarrhea.
6. Discuss the various drug categories used to treat diarrheal attacks.
7. List the experimental drug classes that have been used to control diarrhea.
8. Identify common lifestyle causes of and medical conditions that may lead to constipation.
9. List common drugs that may cause constipation.
10. List three general classes of laxatives and their expected onset of effect.
11. Discuss the proper management of constipation in terms of dietary modification and preferred laxative use.
12. Discuss therapeutic agents used to treat opioid-induced constipation.
13. Define irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), list the manifestations of IBS, and cite its underlying pathophysiologic causes.
14. Discuss the procedures used in the diagnosis of IBS.
15. Differentiate between constipation- and diarrhea-predominant IBS in terms of treatment options.
16. List drug classes used in the treatment of pain associated with IBS.
17. List the experimental drug classes under investigation for the treatment of IBS.