

# Medicine Hx - Gastrointestinal System

## History of “vomiting”

### A. Overview:

Vomiting is the forceful oral expulsion of gastric contents associated with contraction of the abdominal and chest wall musculature. Chronic vomiting refers to the persistence of vomiting more than 1 month. (The patient history)

### B. Differential diagnosis:

DDx	What support this diagnosis?
<b>Gastrointestinal system</b>	
Gastroenteritis	<b>Typical Symptoms:</b> acute, associated with diarrhea, fever and headache.
Peptic ulcer	<b>Risk factors:</b> Hx of peptic ulcer, use of NSAIDs <b>Typical Symptoms:</b> bloody vomitus
Gastric malignancy	<b>Typical symptoms:</b> Feel full after eating small amount of food (early satiety), weight loss
Bowel obstruction	<b>Typical symptoms:</b> associated with colicky abdominal pain, feculent vomitus
Cholecystitis or cholelithiasis	<b>Typical symptoms:</b> upper abdominal pain (colicky) and nausea
Hepatitis	<b>Typical symptoms:</b> jaundice, light stool, dark urine
<b>Central nervous System</b>	
Labrynthitis	<b>Typical Symptoms:</b> vertigo
Meningitis	<b>Typical Symptoms:</b> neck stiffness, headache, photophobia
Increased intracranial pressure	<b>Typical symptoms:</b> Projectile vomiting early in the morning
<b>Other systems</b>	
Myocardial infarction	<b>Risk factors:</b> Hx of heart diseases
Pregnancy	<b>Typical Symptoms:</b> vomiting early in the morning
Cyclic vomiting syndrome	<b>Typical symptoms:</b> Recurrent intermittent pattern, migraine
Medication	<b>Typical symptoms:</b> vomiting starts after taking medication

### C. Questions to Ask the Patient with this presentation

Questions	What you think about ... !
<b>Character, quality, duration... etc”</b>	
<i>How long have you been having attacks of vomiting?</i>	Distinguish acute from chronic
<i>Is the vomiting usually after a meal or hours after a meal?</i>	Gastric ulcer and eating disorders happens immediately after a meal Gastroparesis and gastric outlet obstruction happen > 1 hour after eating
<i>Do you have vomiting early in the morning or late in the evening?</i>	Morning vomiting before eating is characteristic of pregnancy, alcoholism, and increased intra cranial pressure
<i>What does the vomiting look like?</i>	Bloody vomitus is a charectristic of peptic ulcer, esophageal varices, mallory-weiss tear. Feculent vomitus due to bowel obstruction. Bilious vomitus due to small bowel obstruction
<i>Do you have vomiting episodes followed by feeling completely well for long periods before the vomiting episodes occur again?</i>	Cyclical vomiting syndrome
<i>Is the vomiting projectile?</i>	Increased intracranial pressure or pyloric stenosis
<b>Risk factors</b>	
<i>What medication are you taking?</i>	Some medication may cause vomiting including chemotherapy
<b>Associated Symptoms</b>	
<i>Does the vomiting occur with nauseas preceding it or it comes w/o warning?</i>	
<i>Is there any abdominal pain associated with the vomiting?</i>	Bowel obstruction, Cholecystitis or choleithiasis, peritonitis
<i>Have you been losing weight?</i>	Gastric malignancy, eating disorder
<i>Do you have worsening headache?</i>	Neurological symptoms suggest central cause

### D. Review of symptoms related to the system of interest

### E. Systematic Review Go to Medicine – Hx – “General” topic!

**432 OSCE TEAM**

**DONE BY:** Sara AlAbdulqader

**OSCE TEAM LEADERS:** Shaimaa AlRefaie & Roqaih AlDueb