



# History & Physical Examination of Gastrointestinal system

**Diarrhea:** The symptom of diarrhea can be defined in a number of different ways. Patients may complain of frequent stools (more than three per day or a change from previous frequency). Acute diarrhoea is more likely to be infectious in nature, while chronic diarrhoea has a large number of causes.

Chief Complain : Diarrhea	
Question	Indications
What led the patient to complain of diarrhea?	(e.g. <u>consistency</u> or <u>frequency</u> of stools, the presence of <u>urgency</u> or <u>fecal soiling</u> )
How many stools per day do you pass now normally?	
What do the stools look like?	(stool form e.g. <u>loose</u> and <u>watery</u> )
Do you have to race to the bathroom to have a bowel movement?	( <u>Urgency</u> in colonic disease)
Have you been woken from sleep during the night by diarrhea?	( <u>Organic</u> cause more likely)
Are you passing large volumes of stool every day?	(Suggests small bowel disease if <u>non-bloody</u> )
Are your stools pale, greasy, smelly and difficult to flush away (steatorrhea)?	Suggest Malabsorption Steatorrhea (fat droplet) indicates that pancreas doesn't produce sufficient enzyme.
Have you seen oil droplets in the stool?	Chronic pancreatitis

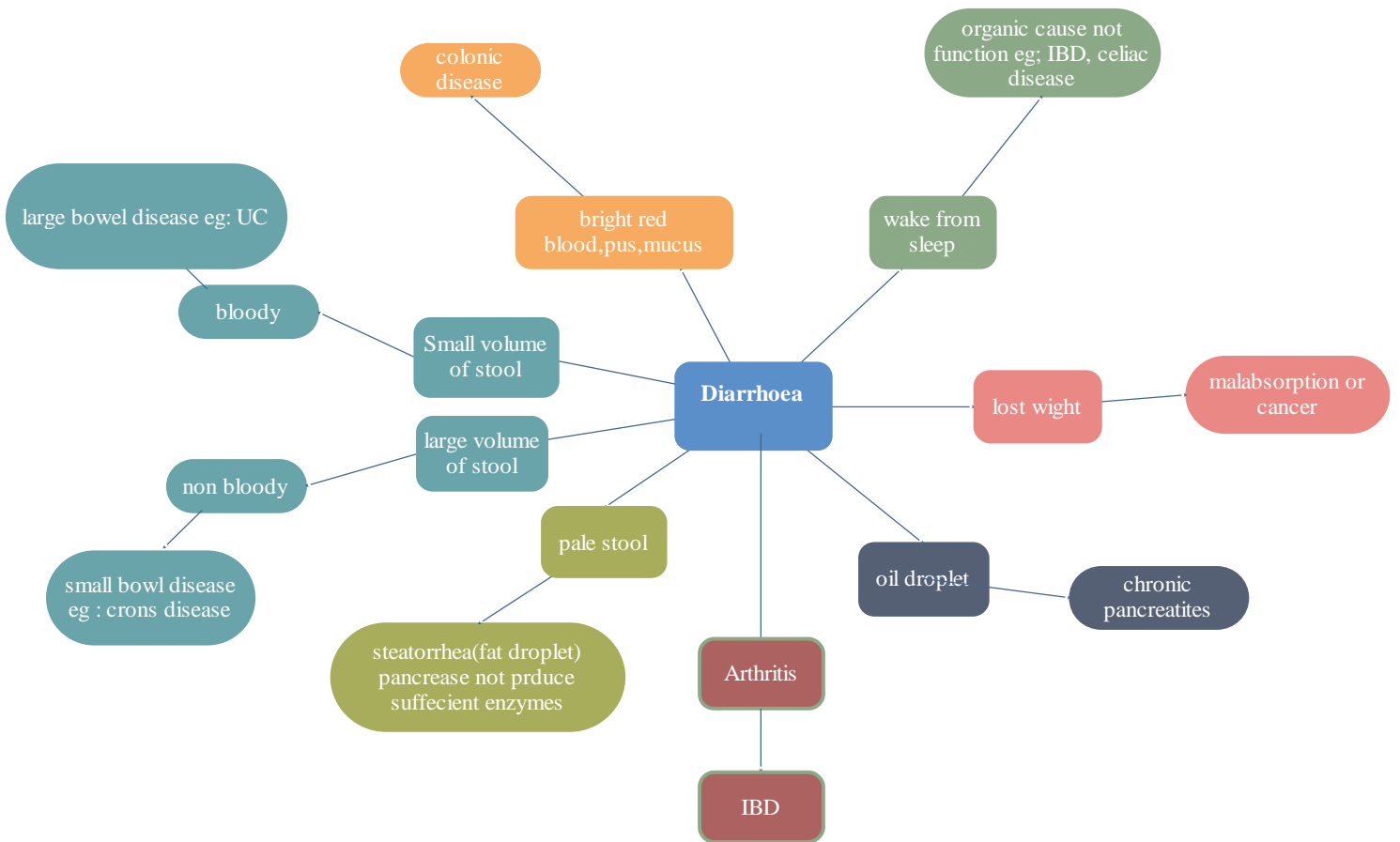
Have you lost weight?	Cancer, malabsorption.
<b>Past Medical History</b>	
Have you a personal history of inflammatory bowel disease, any problem with Arthritis?	
<b>Past Surgical History</b>	
Have you had a history of gastrointestinal surgery?	
<b>Medication</b>	
Have you had treatment with antibiotics recently?	
<b>Family History</b>	
Have you any history in the family of celiac disease or inflammatory bowel disease?	
<b>Social History</b>	
<b>Systemic Review</b>	

### **The difference between organic and functional diarrhea.**

Organic: relate to organ itself either organic perforates or some abscess formation lead to diarrhea eg: IBD, celiac disease

Functional: disturbance in bowel function, such as the role of serotonin in visceral functions and the post-infective onset of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).

<http://www.wjgnet.com/1007-9327/13/219.pdf>





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