DIVISION OF HOSPITAL MEDICINE  
PERIOPERATIVE MEDICINE  

Common Postoperative Complications II

SESSION OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION

As a medical consultant, medicine physicians must be able to identify common medical problems in the postoperative setting and understanding how their etiology may defer because of the postoperative state. Postoperative complications including acid-base, fluid and electrolyte disorders, aspiration, and substance withdrawal are associated with increased morbidity, mortality, and length of hospital stay.

The goal of this independent reading session is to help internal medicine physicians better identify, understand the etiology of, and know how to manage common medical problems when they present in the postoperative period.

SESSION CONTENT

This session identifies, discusses the differential diagnosis and explains the evaluation of the following common medical problems in the postoperative timeframe: acid-base and electrolyte disorders, aspiration, and substance withdrawal.

1. Teach to the curricular milestones of:  
   a. Patient Care:  
      - Independently combine history and physical findings with relevant laboratory results to generate comprehensive problem lists and differential diagnosis  
      - Make informed decisions about diagnostic and therapeutic plans based on patient information and preferences, up-to-date scientific evidence and clinical course  
   b. Medical Knowledge  
      - Know, understand, and manage the above listed perioperative complications
2. Independent study of acid-base and electrolyte disorders, aspiration, and substance withdrawal
Independent Reading

- Chapter 39, “Postoperative Fluid, Electrolyte, and Acid/Base Disorders”, pp 473-491
- Chapter 31, “Substance Abuse”, pp 381-393.
- Chapter 21, “Pulmonary Disease”, pp 211-226.

**UpToDate**

“Overview of the management of postoperative pulmonary complications”

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**REFERENCES**

2. UpToDate