



มหาวิทยาลัยราชภัฏนครปฐม



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# Nursing care of pediatric patients with gastrointestinal problems

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# Diarrhea , Gastroenteritis

## Definition

- Diarrhea - increased frequency and amount and decreased consistency of stool
- Gastroenteritis - an inflammation of the lining of the stomach and intestines

## Causes

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- Bacteria
  - Viruses
  - Toxins
  - Medications
  - Enzyme deficiencies
  - Food allergens
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## Pathophysiology

- Water in the bowel increases from osmotic pull with electrolyte imbalance.
- Can result from anatomic changes of malabsorption.

## Complications

- Metabolic acidosis
- Dehydration

## Assessment findings

- Loose, watery stools
- Abdominal discomfort
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Fever



## Diagnostic test findings

- Stool culture (by direct rectal swab) or blood culture identifies causative bacteria or parasites

## Degree or Levels of dehydration

- The following table highlights the physical findings seen with different levels of pediatric dehydration.

Symptom	Mild (<5% body weight lost)	Moderate (5-9% body weight lost)	Severe (>10% body weight lost)
Mental status	Normal, alert	Restless or fatigued, irritable	Apathetic, lethargic, unconscious
Heart rate	Normal	increases	Tachycardia or bradycardia
Eyes	Normal	Slightly sunken	Deep sunken
Fontanelle	Normal	Slightly sunken	Deep sunken
Tears	Normal	decreased	Absent

# Treatment



Degree	Treatment	Deficit	Maintenance
Mild	ORS 50 ml /kg in 4 hrs.	- Infant : ORS 10 ml/kg - Child : ORS 150-250 ml for each time	- Breast milk - Routine food
Moderate	ORS 100 ml/kg in 4 hrs.	same mild	same mild
Severe	IV. fluid : initial fluid resuscitation(Ringer Lactate, NSS) 20-30 ml/kg/hr in 2 hrs. until pulse and conscious stable then give ORS 50- 100 ml/kg	same mild	same mild

## Treatment

- Probiotics (e.g. Lactobacillus)
- Antimicrobials
  - Cholera : tetracycline
  - cryptosporidium : metronidazole

# Nursing Management



- Goals of treatment
- Maintain adequate hydration
- Maintain appropriate nutrition
- Prevent spread infection
- Support and education



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