

Post Op Fever

First 24hrs:

think: normal rxn 2/2 inflam
 ddx: thyroid storm, transfusion rxn, MI,
 addisonian crisis, malignant hypothermia

First 7 days: the 5 W's



day 1-2: Wind -- PNA
 day 3-5: Water -- UTI
 day 4-6: Walking -- DVT/PE
 day 5-7: Wound -- Infxn
 day 7+: Wonder Drugs



First month:

Ddx: line/tube infxn, deep abscess, C diff
 Colitis, anastomotic leak

Constipation

hard stools requiring effort
 cause: combination of anesthetics,
 opioids, sympathetic activation
 tx: give time & increase activity then
 docusate & glycerin, no dairy

Dehiscense

opening of surgical incision
 Risks: obesity, uncontrolled DM,
 smoking, trauma, coughing, steroid
 use, noncompliance

Infxn is MCC



Ileus = lack of peristalsis
 sx: bloating, +N/V after
 eating, XS belching, no BM
 or flatus, decreased bowel
 sounds
 recovery order:

- 1-small intest
- 2-stomach
- 3-colon



tx: time, slow diet, stim gut
 motility with reglan,
 lactulose or erythromycin

Seroma

clear yellow fluid that
 accumulates in empty
 spaces created by surgery

Lasts weeks-months
 can get infxn

Bleeding

not always visible on the outside, missed
 when internal vessels are cut or seeping
 and builds over time

Massive if over 1L lost
 tx: transfusion, another surg



Adhesions → leading to SBO
 scar tissue in abd that intestines get
 tangled on and can cause SBO even
 years later. SBO requires NPO

PostOp Complications

Eye

SE: endophthalmitis
 Look for hypopyon

Trach/Tonsillectomy

sentinel bleed leads
 to life threat bleed!

Bariatric

SE: dumping syndrome
 Xtreme pain after eating
 too much

Ortho

SE: fat embolus,
 compartment
 syndrome

Brain/spine

SE: paralysis, personality
 changes

Thyroid

SE: hypocalcemia
 accidental removal of parathyroids

Heart

SE: depression, afib, watershed
 infarcts of organs, clotting
If transplant: tachycardia=ok

Abd/Rectal

SE: fistulas, adhesions
 weeks to years later!

OB/GYN

SE: retained products

