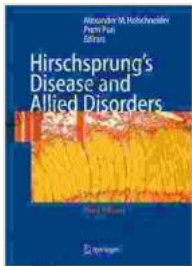


Hirschsprung Disease and Allied Disorders: A Comprehensive Guide

Hirschsprung disease is a congenital condition that affects the large intestine. It is characterized by the absence of ganglion cells in the myenteric and submucosal plexuses of the distal colon and rectum. This results in a lack of peristalsis in the affected segment, leading to functional obstruction. Allied disorders are other conditions that share similar symptoms and/or pathophysiology with Hirschsprung disease.



Hirschsprung's Disease and Allied Disorders

by Michael Anthony

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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Symptoms of Hirschsprung Disease and Allied Disorders

The most common symptom of Hirschsprung disease is chronic constipation. Other symptoms may include:

* Abdominal pain * Distension * Vomiting * Diarrhea * Failure to thrive *
Lack of bowel movements in the first 48 hours of life

Allied disorders may present with similar symptoms, but they may also have additional findings, such as:

* Intestinal malrotation * Meconium plug syndrome * Anorectal malformations * Pelvic floor dysfunction

Causes of Hirschsprung Disease and Allied Disorders

Hirschsprung disease is caused by a genetic mutation that affects the development of the enteric nervous system. Allied disorders may have similar genetic causes or may be caused by other factors, such as:

* In utero exposure to certain medications * Maternal infections * Premature birth

Diagnosis of Hirschsprung Disease and Allied Disorders

The diagnosis of Hirschsprung disease and allied disorders is based on a combination of:

* Physical examination * Medical history * Rectal biopsy * Manometric studies

Rectal biopsy is the gold standard for diagnosing Hirschsprung disease. It involves taking a small sample of tissue from the rectum and examining it under a microscope. Manometric studies measure the pressure and motility of the rectum and colon.

Treatment of Hirschsprung Disease and Allied Disorders

The treatment of Hirschsprung disease and allied disorders depends on the severity of the condition. Mild cases may be managed with conservative

measures, such as:

* Dietary changes * Laxatives * Enemas

More severe cases may require surgery. The goal of surgery is to remove the affected segment of bowel and restore normal bowel function. Surgical options include:

* Swenson procedure * Duhamel procedure * Soave procedure

Laparoscopic and robotic surgery are minimally invasive techniques that can be used to perform these procedures.

Prognosis of Hirschsprung Disease and Allied Disorders

The prognosis for Hirschsprung disease and allied disorders is generally good. With proper treatment, most children with these conditions can lead normal, healthy lives. However, some children may experience long-term complications, such as:

* Constipation * Diarrhea * Incontinence * Growth problems

Hirschsprung disease and allied disorders are complex conditions that can significantly impact a child's health and well-being. Early diagnosis and treatment are essential for achieving the best possible outcomes. If you have any concerns about your child's bowel function, be sure to talk to your doctor.

References

* [Hirschsprung Disease]

(<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/hirschsprung/conditioninfo/Pages/d>

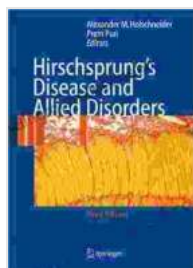
* [Allied Disorders of Hirschsprung Disease]

(<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3547214/>) * [Diagnosis and Management of Hirschsprung Disease]

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(<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4687838/>)



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