



GENERAL SURGERY POST OPERATIVE ISSUES

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OUTLINE

Post hernia surgery

- Major, minor

Post gall bladder surgery

Post lower gastrointestinal tract surgery

- Major, Minor

Post upper gastrointestinal tract surgery

- Major, Minor

Post liver, pancreas and biliary surgery

- Major, Minor

Not included (breast and endocrine surgery)



COMMON TO ALL

Pain

Fatigue

Nausea/vomiting/constipation

DVT/PE

Wound issues

- Haematoma
- Infection +/- abscess
- Seroma
- Superficial dehiscence
- Deep dehiscence



POST HERNIA SURGERY

Major (send them back)

- Complex incisional hernia, contaminated field at time of surgery, emergency operation

Minor

- Open groin hernia – haematoma, post hernia repair chronic pain
- Laparoscopic groin hernia – Residual lump, early recurrence
- Umbilical/Epigastric hernia



POST GALL BLADDER SURGERY

Pain – getting worse or similar to pre-op pain

Jaundice*

Gastrointestinal symptoms – post cholecystectomy syndrome

Deranged Liver Enzymes – retained stone vs liver pathology

Recurrent symptoms months to years later – remnant gall bladder, intrahepatic stones

* Send them back



POST LOWER GI SURGERY

Major

- Post colorectal resection with a fever or not quite right (send them back) – contained leak, abscess
 - The closer the anastomosis is to the anus the more concerned you should be

Minor

- Gastrointestinal symptoms (Constipation, diarrhoea, urgency) – Anterior resection syndrome
- Stoma not working or working too much – Obstruction, gastroenteritis
- Pain post haemorrhoidectomy
- Bleeding post haemorrhoidectomy or banding
- Persistent pain/swelling/discharge post drainage of abscess



POST UPPER GI SURGERY

Major

- Oesophagectomy or total gastrectomy (almost certainly send them back)

Minor

- Nutrition
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- Gastrointestinal symptoms (delayed gastric emptying, dumping)
- Dysphagia (relevant to anti-reflux and weight loss surgery)



POST HPB SURGERY

Major

- Fever, jaundice, not quite right (Send them back)

Minor

- Nutrition
- Exocrine insufficiency
- Endocrine insufficiency
- Fatigue
- Nausea/vomiting
- Gastrointestinal symptoms (delayed gastric emptying)
- Drains
- Deranged liver enzymes



BONUS TOPIC OVERSEAS WEIGHT LOSS SURGERY

Surgical complications

- Fever or not quite right

Follow up complications

- Education
- Nutrition
- Psychology
- Other behaviours of excess

