GI manifestation in COVID-19

Dr. Hashemi Pediatric Gastroenterologist

The most commonly reported symptoms were anorexia and diarrhea.

Other manifestation:

abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, aberrancy in sense of smell or taste

Some patients with COVID-19 have presented with isolated GI symptoms that may precede the development of respiratory symptoms.

Hepatic Manifestations

The clinical presentation of COVID-19 may include hepatic manifestations such as acute hepatitis and abnormal liver biochemical tests.

Hepatic dysfunction (MIS-C)

When to test for COVID-19 in patients with GI symptoms

For patients with GI symptoms, we favor testing for COVID-19 in the following cases:

- Hospitalized patients with the new onset of GI symptoms
- Outpatients with the new onset of GI symptoms for over 48 hours
- Patients with established GI disease (eg, crohn disease) with symptoms suggestive of a disease flare (eg, diarrhea, vomiting)

MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

- Use of telemedicine visits
- Decreased frequency of routine laboratory
- Delay nonurgent endoscopic procedures
- For patients on glucocorticoids therapy should not be abruptly discontinued but should be used at the lowest dose possible to control the underlying disease regardless of COVID-19 exposure or infection status.

IBD

- Diagnostic considerations during pandemic
- Patients with IBD in remission
- Patients with active IBD

Patients without COVID-19

- Patients with IBD in remission
- Patients with active IBD

▶ Patients with COVID -19

- Adjusting IBD medications :
 - Therapies that can be continued without

interruption

- Budesonide
- Aminosalicylates, including sulfasalazine
- Topical rectal therapy (eg,topical glucocorticoid)
- Antibiotics

- Therapies that may require temporary adjustment
 - Systemic glucocorticoids
 - Immunomodulators
 - Biologic agents