

Intestinal Obstruction

Patient's with advanced and wide spread disease in poor general health probably will not benefit from surgery.

For patients in the terminal phase of disease:

- 1) Beneficial to utilize conservative comfort measures and symptom management, and medication for colicky pain, nausea, and vomiting.
- 2) Option of an NG tube
- 3) Patients may choose to ingest food and fluids, knowing they will vomit.
- 4) IV fluids are of debatable value as patient may benefit from dehydration.

Comfort Measures:

- 1) Assessing patterns of obstruction
- 2) Determine the patient's choice of management
- 3) Offer ice chips for dry mouth

Medical Measures:

- 1) Rectal exam to r/o constipation
- 2) Surgical resection if absence of large abdominal tumor mass; only a single removable blocking mass; patient in good physical condition and patient wishes to have surgery.
- 3) Scopolamine for colicky pain 0.8-2.4 mg/24h
- 4) Morphine for visceral pain
- 5) Haloperidol for nausea 2-10mg/24h
- 6) Suppositories or SQ route
- 7) Allow patients to eat and drink as they chose

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