

INFECTIOUS DIARRHEA

Before making any major treatment decisions for symptoms such as diarrhea, pain and/or rectal bleeding, it is important to consider the etiology of the symptoms before making a diagnosis and treatment recommendations.

Clostridium difficile is an important consideration as it may look like a “flare” of Inflammatory Bowel Disease but is treated differently.

If there is a new onset of acute diarrhea, the following should be considered:

- Salmonella
- Shigella
- Yersinia
- E. coli 0157

If there has been recent travel, the following should be considered:

- Giardia
- Ova and Parasites and stool amebiasis antigen

Other possible etiologies include:

- CMV - requires biopsy
- Post-infectious irritable bowel syndrome
- Antibiotic associated diarrhea (non *C. Difficile*)
- Post-infectious lactose insufficiency
- Microsporidium/Cryptosporidium
(if immunosuppressed)
- Shiga toxin assay
- Cryptococcal

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