

Functional Nutrition Working Group Newsletter

August 2023

The mission of the Functional Nutrition Working Group is to educate our profession and aid in lobbying efforts in order to be a resource in enhancing their ability to gain knowledge in the field of functional nutrition and provide their patients with effective holistic healthcare.

Gastrointestinal Disorders

- Approximately 70% of the immune system is located in the GIT.
- Adequate nutrition, proper digestion, and blocking of toxic chemicals lead to optimum gut health.
- Many GI disorders can have a visceral referral to back pain.

• The examination consists of observation, auscultation, percussion, palpation, and special tests for organ involvement.

• GI disorders can be mechanical or non-mechanical.

What to look for?

Many disorders can be found within the GI tract:

- Infections (bacterial or fungal)
- Nutritional deficiencies (such as SIBO)
- HCl impairment (acidic vs. alkaline)
- Changing bowel habits (adequate fiber)
- Change in appetite

Tests to look at:

- Questionnaires- to assist potential deficits among diet and underlying problems.
- Labs such as:
 - CBC w/diff to identify infections
 - Food allergy testing
 - Urine analysis or dipstick
 - o CMP to see electrolyte imbalances
 - Fecal tests for SIBO
- Review Diets and Medications for potential deficiencies and depletions.
- If you are unsure make sure to refer to PCP for consult or co-management.





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