

---PANCREAS---

Basics

Crosses L2

Neck overlies SMA/SMV

Main pancreatic duct (of Wirsung) drains thru major papilla (ampulla of Vater) in 90%

Pancreas divisum: dorsal & ventral ducts do not fuse; minor amp drains Santorini duct

Annular pancreas: ring of panc tiss around 2nd part of duod; czs obstruction in infants

Pancreatic head shares arterial supply with duodenum (resect both w/ panc head tumor)

Splenic artery gives off mult sup pancreatic branches (veins superficial to arteries)

Exocrine pancreas secretes 1-2L of isotonic, alkaline fluid / day

Duod acid → ↑secretin → ↑panc secretion (HCO₃)

Duod fat + protein → ↑CCK → ↑trypsin, chymotrypsin

Islets of Langerhans (1% panc wt) more abundant in tail

Acute pancreatitis

40% d/t EtOH, 40% d/t gallstones

Other czs: steroids, diuretics, hyperCa, hyperlipid, viral infxn

Post-op: gastric / biliary surgery, ERCP

S/Sx: noncrampy abd pain, ↑when supine; significant n/v; Grey-Turner / Cullen's sign

Labs: ↑amylase (non quantitative), ↑lipase (more specific)

Dx: CXR: pleural effusion (L), r/o free air

AXR: local ileus, pancreatic calcifications (if chronic dz)

U/S: gallstones, CBD stones

CT: if suspect complicated pancreatitis

Px: 20% develop cxs

Ranson's criteria (3 or more = severe)

Admission: WBC>16K, Age>55, Glucose>200, AST>250, LDH>350

48 hours: Base excess>4, BUN↑>5, fluid sequest>6L, Ca<8, Hct↓>10, PaO₂<60

Rx: Mild w/o cx: NPO, IVF (several liters)

Pancreatitis = retroper "burn" → aggressive hydration needed

Resp fail may occur d/t hypoCa, effusion, inflam'n: intubate if needed

NGT if ileus or n/v

ABX only if gallstone or necrotizing pancreatitis

TPN if NPO >7 days

Ex lap if unclear dx

CCY in same admission (if cz of pancreatitis)

Cxs: #1cxs: local ileus, peripanc sterile fluid collection d/t ductal block (most resolve)

Splenic v thrombosis → portal HTN

Hyperglycemia, hypoCa, ARF

Panc necrosis: if<30%, usu resolves; if infected >40% mortality

Infxn risk related to amt of necrosis

2-3 weeks after attack

Dx: CT has retroper free air

Rx: surg debridement + ABX (perc drainage usu fails)

Panc abscess: less common than necrosis; Rx = drain

Pseudocysts

#1 cx of pancreatitis

Persistent fluid collection, with no epithelial lining

Communicating (open to panc duct) vs non-comm

Wall (fibrotic scar) forms w/in 4-6 weeks

S/Sx: persistent pain > 1wk, n/v, early satiety, palp abd mass, persistent ↑amy/lip

Dx: daily palpation, U/S (preferred test for monitoring Δ), CT

Rx: NPO, TPN

At 4-6 weeks, suture cyst to stomach/jej for internal drainage if >6cm

External drainage results in panc fistula, reqs 2nd operation

If non-comm, may attempt IR drainage, but high recurrence

Bx cyst wall to r/o cancer

Cx: If sudden onset abd pain or hypotension: IVF + angio to r/o erosion into vessel

If sudden onset fever, may have cyst infxn: ABX + drain

Chronic pancreatitis

#1 cz = continued EtOH

permanent ductal damage

malnutrition when <10% enzyme secretion, diabetes

Sx: severe pain, jaundice, steatorrhea, B12/fat sol vit deficiency

Dx: CT if new sxs; U/S for pseudocyst, jaundice

Rx: conservative, but medical Rx rarely resolves pain; low fat diet, enzymes, insulin

Surgery for incapacitating pain; preop CT/MRCP/ERCP to map ductal anatomy

ERCP best but may exacerbate dz

Ductal decompression (panc-jej) if dilated ducts

Panc segmental resection if no ductal dilation

Cx: Biliary stricture w/ ↑ LFTs: need decompression

Pseudocysts (do not resolve as in acute pancr): drain if sxs or >5cm

Pancreatic neoplasms

#4 cancer cz of death

Male:Female = 2:1

Risk: age, cigarettes(2x ↑ risk)

2/3 in panc head

#1 type = adenocarc

Lymphoma = rare cz, but Rx = chemo/RT, no surg

Sx: Painless jaundice = classic

Wt loss, pain (constant, posterior, radiating)

Courvoisier's sign

Dx: U/S, CT; unresectable if liver mets, ascites, vascular invasion

Rx: Correct coagulopathy & malnutrition

If unresectable: endoscopic biliary drainage

Body/Tail lesions: distal pancreatectomy

Head: Whipple (antrectomy, duodenectomy, pancreatectomy, CCY, CBD resxn)

Continuity restored w/: gastrojej, pancreaticojej, choledochojej

Cx: <5% mortality; leak (amylase rich), leak from gastric/biliary anast

Panc fistula (20%): Rx: drain, control output, nutrition, most close spont
Px: Most pts p/w unresectable dz
Most pts w/ resxn die from recurrence (median surv 19 mos; 6 mos w/o resxn)
If LNs neg, 5 yr surv = 20%

Cystadenoma/Cystadenocarcinoma

Serous = microcystic: 60 yo females (serous=small)
Mucinous = macrocystic: more common, 40 yo females; resect (mucin=mucho com, big)
Px for cystadenocarcinoma 5 yr surv = 50%
Hamoudi neoplasms: solid & cystic papillary ca: 20 yo females; resect; good px

Islet cell tumors

#1 = insulinoma (B cells) and gastrinoma (delta cells)

Usu nonfunctional/nonsecreting

Insulinoma

90% benign (other mostly malignant: glucagonoma, somatostatinoma, VIPoma)

Sx: Whipple's triad (r/o factitious hypoglycemia, check C peptide)

Dx: CT only detects 50%; best dx = palpation during surgery

Rx: early resxn

Zollinger Ellison syndrome

Gastrin secreting tumor

Usu in gastrinoma triangle (jxn of cystic duct/CBD, 2nd/3rd part duod, SMA)

May also be located outside panc/biliary system, thus full body scan needed

S/Sx: ulcers in unusual location, recurrent duod ulcers, profuse watery diarrhea,
large gastric rugal folds

Dx: secretin stimulation test, r/o MEN synd

Rx: resxn