

68 year old man is brought in by ambulance. He has been complaining of abdominal pain for the last 4 days. Pain has gradually been getting worse and his GP prescribed him senna yesterday. Today he started vomiting profusely and is unable to keep any food down. He has not opened his bowels for 5 days.

PMH – hypertension, mild arthritis, he had a Laparotomy 30 years ago following a motorcycle accident, which left him with a limp.

DH- atenolol, thiazide diuretics and enalapril

His HR is 80 with a BP of 100/75, he looks sweaty and pale. His abdomen is distended and generally tender with no guarding with loud bowel sounds.

Describe how you would manage this patient initially. 3 points

Name 6 investigations you ought to order which could alter your immediate management. 3 points
Diagnosis of small bowel obstruction is confirmed. Describe your management from then on. 4 points