

## Digestive System Disorders

### Case Study#1

A one year old girl is brought into the emergency room at the general hospital by her parents. They comment that they can't get their little girl to eat anything, and when something does go down she has severe projectile vomiting, in addition she has been crying uncontrollably for the past 2 hours.

Digestive System Disorder Diagnosis: PYLORIC STENOSIS

Definition: narrowing of the outlet of the stomach so that food cannot pass easily from it into the duodenum, resulting in feeding problems and projective vomiting

### Case Study #2

An 18 year old boy comes into the emergency room at the general hospital complaining about the following symptoms: nausea, vomiting and excruciating pain in the lower right abdomen. When you (the doctor) press on the lower portion of the abdomen its tender and when the pressure is released the pain increases sharply.

Digestive System Disorder Diagnosis: APPENDICITIS

Definition: inflammation and/or infection of the appendix, usually resulting in its removal.

### Case Study #3

You (as a pediatric doctor) have a patient (4 years old) that has been complaining of an upset stomach for the past year after eating cereal. You have noticed that over this past year the patient doesn't seem to be growing at a normal rate (and she has actually lost a little weight) and after a recent blood test you notice that anemia is developing (from iron deficiency).

Digestive System Disorder Diagnosis: CELIAC DISEASE

Definition: an immune (allergic) reaction to gluten, a protein present in cereal grains. The lining of the small intestine is affected, decreasing the amount of surface available for the absorption of nutrients.

### Case Study #4

A 35 year old male comes to you (a doctor) complaining about bad heartburn. After some probing questions, you find out that he frequently regurgitates stomach contents into his mouth.

Digestive System Disorder Diagnosis: Gastroesophageal reflux (GERD)

Definition: stomach contents regurgitate and back up (reflux) into the esophagus, occasionally reaching the breathing passages, causing inflammation and damage to the esophagus, as well as to the lungs and the voice box.