



# Gastrointestinal Emergencies

micro drip study guide

version 1

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# Pain Control



Advocate for your patient

Almost all GI patients need some type of pain management. Be sure to use multimodal pain medication.

Moderate to Severe: Think opioids

Mild to Moderate Pain: Codeine, tramadol??, amantidine, and gabapentin

Pain control's big for these guys. And if you are a vet tech, you need to advocate for your patient. Again, we don't need to go right to radiology to get a film of our bloat patient, our bellies hurt. Remember, when you have gas, it hurts a lot. Imagine what it feels like to be bloated. So let's advocate for our patients. Almost all of our GI patients need some type of pain management. It hurts, gas hurts, pain in the belly hurts.

So we're going to want to go ahead and use multimodal pain medication. If we're dealing with moderate to severe pain, think opioids. And obviously, when we're talking about acute abdomen, that's what we're talking about. Mild to moderate, sure. Maybe some codeine, tramadol, I'd put a question mark.

Is it effective? Is it not effective? Do we really know? We have no idea. Right now, gabapentin is the drug of choice. You get gaba, and you get gaba. I guarantee you that's going to change. I promise you. Just give it time, we're going to be like, what were we thinking with gabapentin? I have no idea. We thought it was great.

Just like for like a decade, we thought tramadol was great. It's funny because codeine used to be great, then we discontinued it. Now it's back. Amantadine. So I wish sometimes our patients could talk because we could say, is this working for your pain or not? But our veterinary patients don't. And so we're left advocating for them, and obviously, they all respond very differently just like people do.