Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders (FGIDs)

General Definition

- **Functional disorder** = condition where **normal function is impaired**, but **no visible abnormality** is found by:
- Examination
- Dissection
- Microscope

P Definition of FGIDs

- "Functional" means the body's 1-movement, 2-sensitivity of the nerves of the intestine, 3- brain control of intestinal functions is abnormal.
- But **no structural abnormality** on:
- Endoscopy
- X-ray
- Blood tests

Rey Points

- Hyperfunction or hypofunction with no visible damage.
- FGIDs = **Diagnosis of Exclusion**.
- The most common GI disorders in the general populations

■ Prevalence

FGIDs	Other GI Disorders
75%	25%

About 1 in 4 people in the U.S. have FGIDs.

In relation to GI Problems Seen by Doctors

FGIDs = ~40% of cases.

Diagnosis: Rome Criteria

- Rome criteria = used to categorize and diagnose FGIDs.
- Rome IV is the updated version.

Esophageal FGIDs

- 1- Globus:
- Feeling of lump or tightness in throat.
- Not related to swallowing. (perfect swallowing, always found sensation)
- 2- Functional Chest Pain:
- Chest pain from esophagus.
- Must rule out cardiac chest pain first.
- 3- Functional Heartburn:
- Burning feeling without GERD, motility disorder or a structural explanation
- Doesn't respond to PPI.
- 4- Functional Dysphagia:

- Feeling of difficulty swallowing with **no organic cause**.(brain gut interaction)
- 5- Reflux Hypersensitivity:
- Even small reflux causes big symptoms (more symptoms that other population)

Alarm Symptoms to Look For

Alarm Features	
Age ≥50	
Symptoms ≥5 years persisting.	
Dysphagia, Odynophagia	
Persistent vomiting	
GI bleeding	
Iron-deficiency anemia	
Unexplained weight loss	
Palpable mass or LNs	
Family history of GI cancer	
Chest pain	

Diagnostic Tools

- Manometry → Measures esophageal pressure.
- 24-hour pH Monitoring → Measures reflux.

? 24-Hour Esophageal pH Monitoring

- Most accurate for reflux pattern, frequency, duration.
- **Documents correlation** between reflux episodes and symptoms.
- Sensitivity: 77–100% (But normal in 25% of esophagitis cases!)
- **Specificity**: 85–100%
- Best when diagnosis is still unclear. (when symptoms persist)

Summary of Workup

- If chest pain → Rule out angina.
- If alarm symptoms → EGD ± biopsy.

 Hieropeutic and daypostic.
- If no alarm symptoms → PPI trial 4–8 weeks.
- If symptoms persist:
- With dysphagia → Manometry
- Without dysphagia → 24-hour pH study

Functional Dyspepsia

General Info

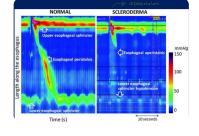
- AKA Non-Ulcer Dyspepsia (NUD).
- 15–25% of general population.
- Commonest cause of dyspepsia (60%).
- 30% of cases overlap with IBS.
- Most cases related to food

Alarm Symptoms for Dyspepsia

(Similar to other GI alarms)



Chest Pain



Alarm Symptoms

Dysphagia, Odynophagia
Vomiting
Anorexia, weight loss
Hematemesis, Melena
Anemia
Epigastric mass, LNs
Jaundice Jaundice Jaundice
History of gastric surgery or PUD
Family history of GI cancer

P Definition (Rome III) -> all the points must be applied to confirm the diagnosis

- Onset ≥6 months ago
- Duration ≥3 months
- Must have 1 or more of:
- Postprandial fullness paranadial type > 84 %.
- Early satiety
- Epigastric pain
- Epigastric burning
- No evidence of structural disease by normal endoscopy.
- Not explained by bowel changes.

Pathophysiology of Functional Dyspepsia

Mechanism	Details
Dysmotility	Delayed gastric emptying, √compliance,
	Accelerated emptying
Visceral Sensitivity	Normal compliance but early pain due to lower
	threshold
Duodenum	Hypersensitivity to lipids or acid
Infection	H. pylori, Gastroenteritis
Psychological Factors	Patients with psych disorders more prone

Note: They believe it's multifactorial.

Subtypes of Functional Dyspepsia

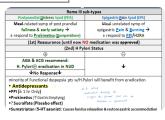
Subtype	Description	Response to
Postprandial Distress Syndrome	Meal-related fullness & early	± Prokinetics (Domperidone)
(PDS)	satiety	
Epigastric Pain Syndrome (EPS)	Meal-unrelated epigastric pain	± PPI or H2RA
	& burning	

Management Approach

- 1. **First step**: → **Reassurance** (no approved medication so far).
- 2. Second step: → Check H. pylori status:
- If positive → Eradicate.
- 3. If No Response After Eradication: → Diagnosis becomes functional dyspepsia.

Treatment Options if No Response

Therapy	Mechanism
Antidepressants	Neuromodulation
PPI	Decrease gastric acid



Prokinetics	Speed up gastric emptying
Sucralfate	Placebo effect
Sumatriptan (5-HT agonist)	Fundus relaxation

Important Handwritten Notes

• If after eradication therapy of H. pylori the patient still has no response, then it's classified as **functional dyspepsia**.

☆ Other Gastro-Duodenal FGIDs

2 1. Cyclic Vomiting Syndrome (CVS)

Criteria (Rome III):

- Stereotypical episodes: same pattern every time
- Duration: episodes of nausea & vomiting lasting < 1 week
- Frequency: ≥3 episodes/year
- Asymptomatic between episodes: patient feels completely normal in between

! Diagnosis:

- Diagnosis of exclusion
- Rule out other causes of vomiting

Associated with:

History or family history of migraines

Treatment:

• Tri-Cyclic Antidepressants (TCAs) > They help regulate gut-brain interaction and reduce frequency of episodes.

2. Rumination Syndrome

Key Features:

- Effortless, controlled regurgitation of food after eating
- No nausea
- Non-acidic content
- The regurgitated food may be:
- Re-swallowed
- Or spit out

Explanation:

- It's a **behavioral condition**, not a mechanical or acid problem.
- Patients usually don't even realize they're doing it it becomes habitual.

Treatment:

- Behavioral therapy:
- Most effective = **diaphragmatic breathing** techniques > This breaks the regurgitation pattern by engaging abdominal muscles properly during meals.

Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS)

P IBS Alarm Symptoms

7 1	
Alarm Symptoms	
Age >50	
Weight loss	
Rectal bleeding	
Change in bowel habits	
Nocturnal symptoms	

FHx of GI cancer or IBD

Anemia or biochemical abnormalities

Mass on exam

P IBS Diagnosis (Rome III Criteria)

- Recurrent abdominal pain/discomfort ≥1 days/week in the last 3 months since 6 months
- Must have 2 or more:
- Improvement or worsens with defecation
- Onset associated with change in stool frequency
- Onset associated with change in stool form (diarrhea or constipations)

IBS Etiology (Unclear)

Cause	Notes
Food intolerance (Mast cell activation
Post-infectious IBS ② Food poisoning once and foreuer worse. After that	Inflammation after gastroenteritis (increased permeability and persistent inflammation), RF for post infections: 1- the duration of (the strongest factor) 2- severity 3- cramping with initial infection
Psychological Disorders	Stress worsens symptoms
Age	IBS decreases with age

IBS Types

1. Constipation-Predominant IBS (C-IBS)

Feature	Details
Main Symptom	Constipation
Transit	Slow colonic transit (only ~25% of patients)
Other Problems	Hard, infrequent stools, straining

Important Points:

• Only **some patients** have slow transit — most **still have normal colonic transit** but abnormal perception or motility.

2. Diarrhea-Predominant IBS (D-IBS)

Feature	Details
Main Symptom	Diarrhea
Transit	Rapid colonic transit (45% of patients)
Special Mechanism	↓ Fibroblast Growth Factor 19 (FGF-19) → less bile acid reuptake → more bile acid reaches colon → causes cholerheic diarrhea (~25% of D-IBS)

Important Points:

- **Cholerheic diarrhea** = diarrhea from bile acids in colon.
- Possible association with SIBO (Small Intestinal Bacterial Overgrowth) (~10% of D-IBS patients):
- Some improve with **Rifaximin**, but only if SIBO is confirmed.

3. Mixed-Type IBS (M-IBS)

Feature	Details
Symptoms	Alternating constipation and diarrhea
Mechanism	Combination of both abnormal motility patterns

Important Points:

• Patients shift back and forth between diarrhea and constipation episodes.

IBS Diagnosis of Exclusion

Normal CBC, CRP, ESR

Negative celiac screening (Anti-tTG)

• ± Thyroid tests -> Thyroid diseases can mimic its

± Stool studies

• Negative fecal calprotectin (rule out IBD)

All Should be normal.

FODMAPs in IBS

- FODMAPs = Fermentable Oligo-, Di-, Mono-saccharides And Polyols. (unswedefield drops)
- Advise patients to restrict these for symptom relief.

X IBS Management

1st Step:

- Define/eliminate food triggers (low FODMAP diet).
- Behavioral therapy.
- Manage psychological stress.

2nd Step (Symptom-Directed):

Symptom	Management
Abdominal Pain	Antispasmodics, TCAs, SSRIs
Bloating	Probiotics ± Simethicone
Constipation	Fiber, Osmotic laxatives, ± Stimulant laxatives
Diarrhea	Bulk-formers, Opioids
	(Loperamide/Diphenoxylate)