Short Bowel Syndrome

Short bowel syndrome is a group of problems affecting people who have had half or more of their small intestine removed. The most common reason for removing part of the small intestine is to treat Crohn's disease.

SYMPTOMS

Diarrhea is the main symptom of short bowel syndrome. Other symptoms include cramping, bloating, and heartburn. Many people with short bowel syndrome are malnourished because their remaining small intestine is unable to absorb enough water, vitamins, and other nutrients from food. They may also become dehydrated, which can be life-threatening. Problems associated with dehydration and malnutrition include:

- Weakness.
- Weight loss.
- Fatigue.
- Bacterial infections.
- Depression.
- Food sensitivities.

TREATMENT

Short bowel syndrome is treated through:

- Changes in diet.
- Intravenous feeding.
- Vitamin and mineral supplements.
- Medicine to relieve symptoms.

This information is courtesy of the National Digestive Diseases Information Clearinghouse. The NIDDK is part of the National Institutes of Health under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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Document Released: 11/30/2005 Document Re-Released: 03/16/2010

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