Mesenteric adenitis

Mesenteric adenitis is an inflammation of lymph nodes (glands) in the abdomen. It may appear to mimic appendicitis symptoms. It is most common in children. The cause of this may be an infection somewhere else in the body. It usually gets well without treatment but can cause problems for up to a couple weeks.

SYMPTOMS

The most common problems are:

- Fever.
- Abdominal pain and tenderness.
- Nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea.

DIAGNOSIS

Your caregiver may have an idea what is wrong by examining you or your child. Sometimes lab work and other studies such as Ultrasonography and a CT scan of the abdomen are done.

TREATMENT

Children with mesenteric adenitis will get well without further treatment. Treatment includes rest, pain medications, and fluids.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Do not take or give laxatives unless ordered by your caregiver.
- Use pain medications as directed.
- Follow the diet recommended by your caregiver.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- The pain does not go away or becomes severe.
- An oral temperature above 102º F (38.9º C) develops.
- Repeated vomiting occurs.
- The pain becomes localized in the right lower quadrant of the abdomen (possibly appendicitis).
- You or your child notice bright red or black tarry stools.

MAKE SURE YOU:

- Understand these instructions.
- Will watch your condition.
- Will get help right away if you are not doing well or get worse.

Document Released: 03/16/2010
ExitCare® Patient Information ©2011 ExitCare, LLC.