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Bowel Obstruction in Children and Adults

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Bowel Obstruction in Children and Adults

Bowel obstruction is a gastrointestinal condition that affects the digestive system by preventing digested contents from passing through the bowel in a usual manner resulting in a painful swollen stomach (Catena et al., 2019). It can be caused by a tumour inside one's bowel, scar tissue from previous surgery, a twisted colon and a hernia. It occurs in both small and large intestines. The most frequent obstruction that occurs in children from the age of 3 is intussusception. Intussusception takes place when one section of an intestine telescopes itself inside of a small or large intestine, causing a blockage in the process (Caruso et al., 2017). In adults, the causes of bowel obstruction are different, as mentioned above. The symptoms of the blockage are different in children because they experience abdominal pains at different intervals. They also experience rectal bleeding, vomiting and nausea. Adults also experience acute stomach pains that last for long hours and throwing up.

The results of this illness are the same in both children and adults because they have to change their diet from eating solid foods to liquids only using tubes. Since the condition is serious, a surgery needs to be performed with immediate effect to correct the anomaly for the adults. The hernia, scar tissue or tumour need to be removed to create a clear bowel passage. As for children, they will not require a surgery process. Instead, a radiologic procedure will be conducted to push the intestines back to normal using a liquid or air contrast enema after the treatment nurses need to take care of the surgical incision to prevent any case of bacterial infection. Additionally, they need to teach patients how to take care of the surgery wound while at home, and offer them the recommended diet that will help recover better (Schreiber, 2016).

References

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