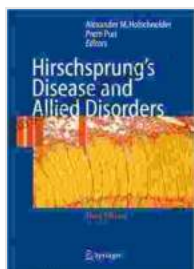


Hirschsprung Disease and Allied Disorders

A Comprehensive Guide

Hirschsprung disease is a rare congenital disorder that affects the large intestine. It is characterized by the absence of nerve cells in the rectum and colon, which prevents the normal passage of stool.

Hirschsprung disease can cause a variety of symptoms, including constipation, abdominal pain, and failure to thrive. In severe cases, it can lead to life-threatening complications such as intestinal obstruction and perforation.



Hirschsprung's Disease and Allied Disorders

by Michael Anthony

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

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Screen Reader: Supported

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Hirschsprung disease is typically diagnosed in infancy or early childhood. Treatment involves surgery to remove the affected portion of the intestine. The prognosis for Hirschsprung disease is generally good, but some children may experience long-term complications such as incontinence and constipation.

Hirschsprung Disease and Allied Disorders is a comprehensive guide to the diagnosis and management of Hirschsprung disease. The book is written by a team of experts in the field and provides up-to-date information on the latest research and treatment options. Hirschsprung Disease and Allied Disorders is an essential resource for clinicians, researchers, and families affected by this condition.

Causes

The exact cause of Hirschsprung disease is unknown, but it is believed to be caused by a combination of genetic and environmental factors. In most cases, Hirschsprung disease is sporadic, meaning that it occurs in children with no family history of the disorder. However, there is a small percentage of cases that are inherited in an autosomal dominant manner.

The genetic mutations that have been linked to Hirschsprung disease affect genes that are involved in the development of the enteric nervous system. The enteric nervous system is a network of nerves that controls the function of the digestive tract. In children with Hirschsprung disease, the mutations in these genes prevent the normal development of the enteric nervous system, which leads to the absence of nerve cells in the rectum and colon.

In addition to genetic factors, environmental factors may also play a role in the development of Hirschsprung disease. For example, exposure to certain toxins or infections during pregnancy has been linked to an increased risk of Hirschsprung disease.

Symptoms

The symptoms of Hirschsprung disease can vary depending on the severity of the condition. In mild cases, children may only experience occasional constipation. In severe cases, children may have complete intestinal obstruction, which can be life-threatening.

The most common symptoms of Hirschsprung disease include:

- Constipation
- Abdominal pain
- Failure to thrive
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Intestinal obstruction

Children with Hirschsprung disease may also have other medical problems, such as heart defects, Down syndrome, and autism spectrum disorder.

Diagnosis

Hirschsprung disease is typically diagnosed in infancy or early childhood. The diagnosis is based on a physical examination and a variety of tests, including:

- Anorectal manometry
- Rectal biopsy
- Colonoscopy

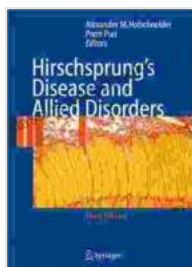
Anorectal manometry is a test that measures the pressure in the rectum and colon. Rectal biopsy is a procedure in which a small sample of tissue is removed from the rectum for examination under a microscope.

Colonoscopy is a procedure in which a thin, flexible tube with a camera on the end is inserted into the rectum and colon to visualize the inside of the digestive tract.

Treatment

Treatment for Hirschsprung disease involves surgery to remove the affected portion of the intestine. The type of surgery that is performed will depend on the severity of the condition. In some cases, a simple resection of the affected bowel may be sufficient. In other cases, a more complex procedure, such as a pull-through procedure, may be necessary.

A pull-through procedure involves creating a new pathway for stool to pass from the small intestine to the rectum. This is done by pulling the healthy small intestine through the rectum and creating a new opening for stool



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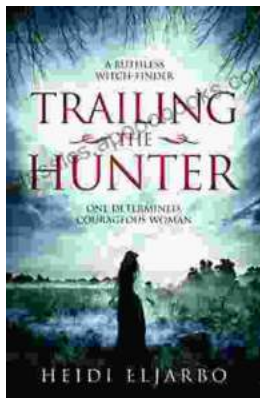
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