

Blood in Stool

What is it?

- **GI/Gastrointestinal Disorders**- can be life threatening, may require emergency treatment or surgery
 - **Examples**- mechanical obstruction of the digestive tract, bleeding in the GI tract, ileus/a temporary cessation of the tract's normal contractile movement, peritonitis/inflammation of the lining of the abdominal cavity, appendicitis/inflammation of the appendix
- **Bleeding**- may occur from the mouth to the anus, along the digestive /GI tract
 - **Examples**- blood in the stool, blood in vomit, may be hidden/occult and detectable only with tests, worsens with another bleeding disorder



Signs and Symptoms:

- **Symptoms**- vomiting blood/hematemesis, passing visible blood from the rectum/hematochezia, passing black tarry stools/melena,
 - **Black Tarry Stools**- bleeding high up in the digestive tract (the stomach or the duodenum), this is blood that has been exposed to stomach acid and bacterial digestion for several hours before it exits the body, 2 oz. of blood can produce a tarry stool, continuous tarry stools do not indicate consistent bleeding
- **Long-Term Bleeding**- anemia as tiring easily, pale, chest pain, light-headed or abnormal drop in the blood pressure after lying down or sitting up
- **Serious Blood Loss**- often have a rapid pulse rate, low blood pressure, reduced urine production, cold clammy hands and feet, reduced supply of blood may lead to confusion, shock, sleepiness, disorientation, (high blood pressure, lung disease, and kidney failure may worsen), bleeding in the intestines with liver disease may alter the mental status or changes in personality
 - **Diagnosis of CAD/Coronary Artery Disease**- may suddenly develop angina/chest pain or symptoms of a heart attack



Facts:

- **GI Problems**- 80% of people with GI bleeding, the body's defenses stop the bleeding

What can I do?

- **See your Health Care Provider**- hematocrit, examination for cancer, examination, endoscope, biopsy, X-rays, scans, transfusion