

Q1 WHAT IS THE NEXT BEST STEP?

- A. Order oral ciprofloxacin and metronidazole
- B. CT of the abdomen and pelvis
- C. Send to the emergency department for further evaluation
- D. Obtain cell count and culture of PD effluent

The correct answer is D.

This patient is showing typical signs symptoms of PD-associated peritonitis. Per the International Society of Peritoneal Dialysis guidelines, the diagnostic criteria must meet 2 out of the 3:

1. Abdominal pain and/or cloudy effluent
2. Effluent white cell count > 100 u/l with at least > 50% PMN after at least 2 hours of dwell time
3. Positive effluent culture

In order to establish the diagnosis of peritonitis, an effluent cell count and culture must be obtained. If peritonitis is diagnosed then the optimal route antibiotic administration is intraperitoneal, not oral.

Given the overall stability of the patient and the high pre-test probability of peritonitis, CT of the abdomen and pelvis will not provide high yield information. In addition, peritonitis can be diagnosed and treated on an outpatient basis, and most times does not require an ED visit or inpatient admission.

Further reading:

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/epub/10.1177/08968608221080586>