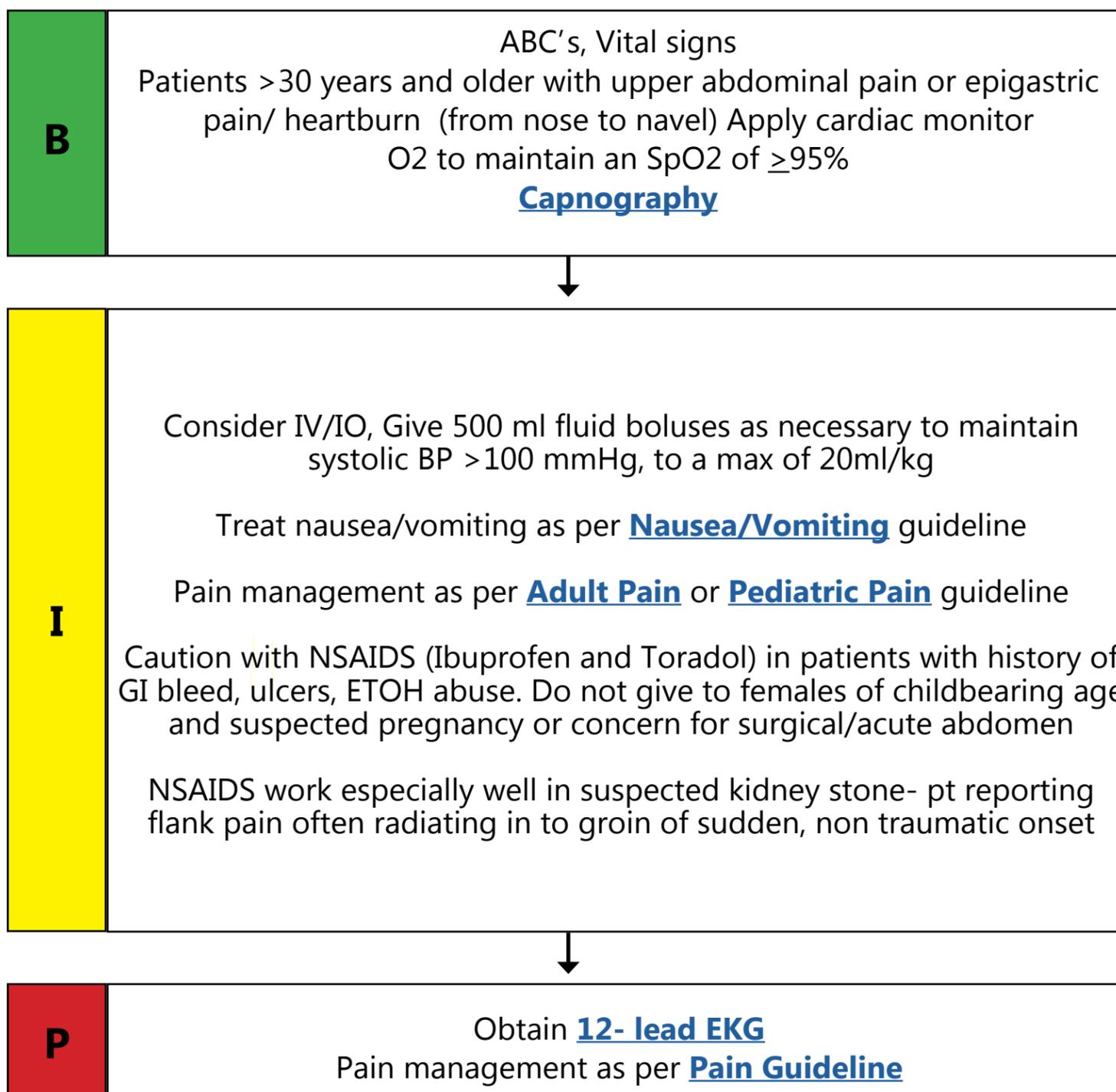


Medical Abdominal Pain

Designation of Condition: The patient may complain of acute or chronic pain. It is important to assess the quality and nature of their discomfort. Common causes of acute abdominal pain may be appendicitis, cholecystitis, bowel obstruction/perforation, diverticulitis, ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm, ectopic pregnancy, pelvic inflammatory disease, or pancreatitis. An acute abdomen is rigid with guarding, distention, and diffuse tenderness and may indicate a surgical emergency.



KEY POINT

Patients with abdominal pain and signs and symptoms of shock may have severe electrolyte abnormalities. This may result in cardiac arrhythmias which can be life threatening.

Abdominal pain in women of child bearing age (12-50 years old) should be treated as an ectopic pregnancy until proven otherwise.

Myocardial infarction can present with abdominal pain especially in the diabetic and elderly.

DKA may present with abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting. Check blood sugar. ETCO2 and fluid bolus as per [Diabetic Emergencies](#)

The diagnosis of abdominal aneurysm should be considered with abdominal pain in patients over 50 years old.