Possible Problems From Peptic Ulcer Disease

Peptic ulcers are sores in the lining of the stomach or small bowel. These sores can lead to the problems listed below.
Pyloric Stenosis

• **What is Pyloric Stenosis?**
  Pyloric stenosis is a narrowing of the opening between the stomach and the small bowel.

• **What causes this narrowing?**
  The narrowing may occur if the ulcer becomes inflamed, swells or forms scars.

• **What are the symptoms of Pyloric Stenosis?**
  - Nausea
  - Vomiting
  - Constipation
  - Stomach cramps
  - Stomach pain after eating
  - Feeling of fullness

Bleeding

• **What causes bleeding?**
  Bleeding occurs when an ulcer makes a hole into the blood vessels in the lining of the stomach or small bowel. If small blood vessels are damaged blood oozes out. If large vessels are damaged, you will loose blood quickly.
What are the symptoms of bleeding?

Symptoms of slow blood loss include:
- Black, tarry stools
- Cold hands and feet
- Weakness

Symptoms of rapid blood loss include:
- Vomiting of blood
- Increase in heart rate
- Fainting (blacking out)
- Bright red blood from the rectum

If these symptoms occur, call your doctor.

Perforation

What is Perforation?

Perforation is a hole through the wall of the stomach or small bowel.

What causes Perforation?

Juices are made in the stomach and small bowel to break down food and fluid so that the body can use them. Sometimes more juices than normal are made and these juices make a hole into the lining of the stomach and small bowel. This hole lets the food and fluid in the stomach and small bowel spill into the abdomen. Infection occurs quickly.
• **What are the symptoms?**
  ▶ Severe abdominal pain
  ▶ Sudden vomiting
  ▶ Pain in the shoulders
  ▶ Tender, hard abdomen

The symptoms may happen suddenly and get worse quickly. If you have symptoms of pyloric stenosis, bleeding or perforation, call your doctor.

• **Talk to your doctor or others on your health care team if you have questions.** You may request more written information from the Library for Health Information at (614) 293-3707 or email: health-info@osu.edu.