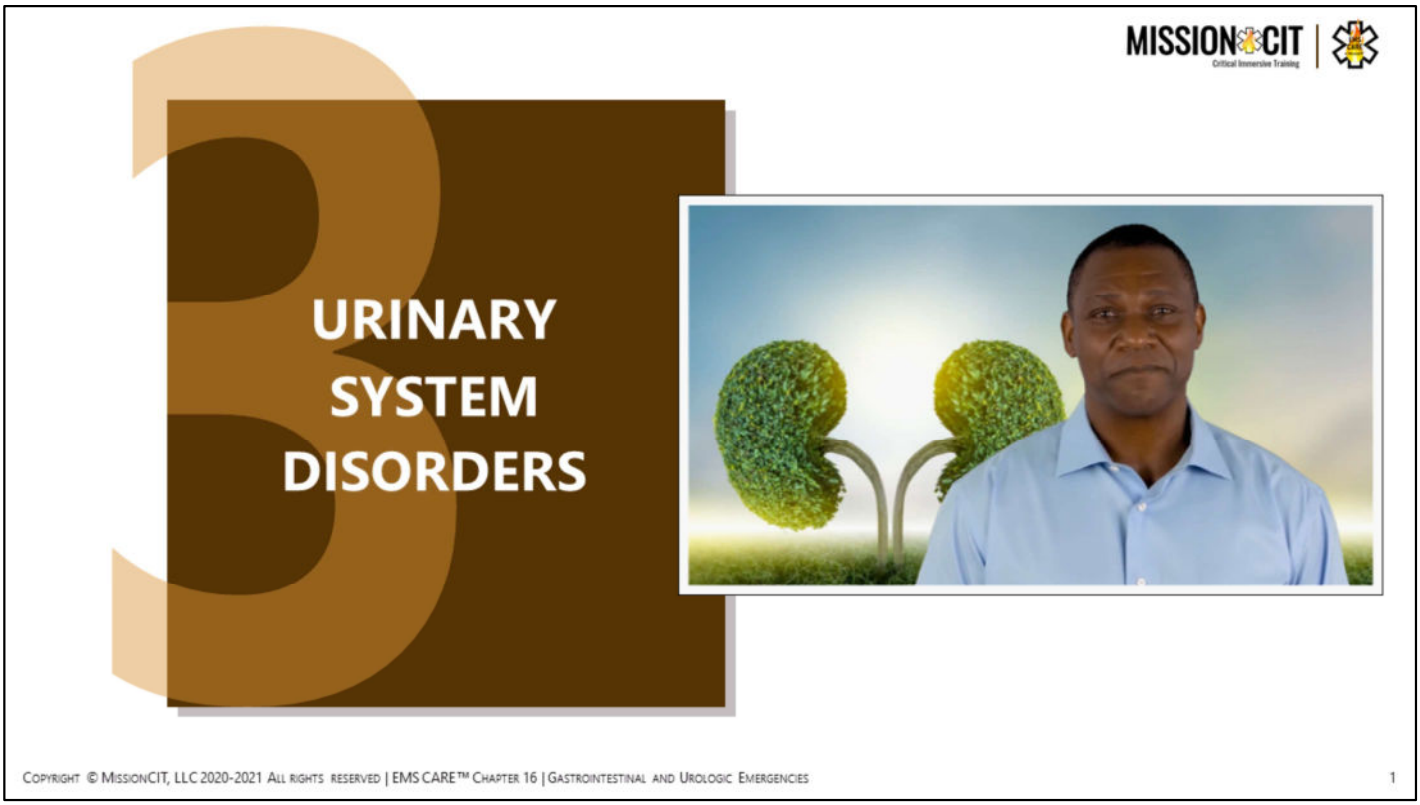
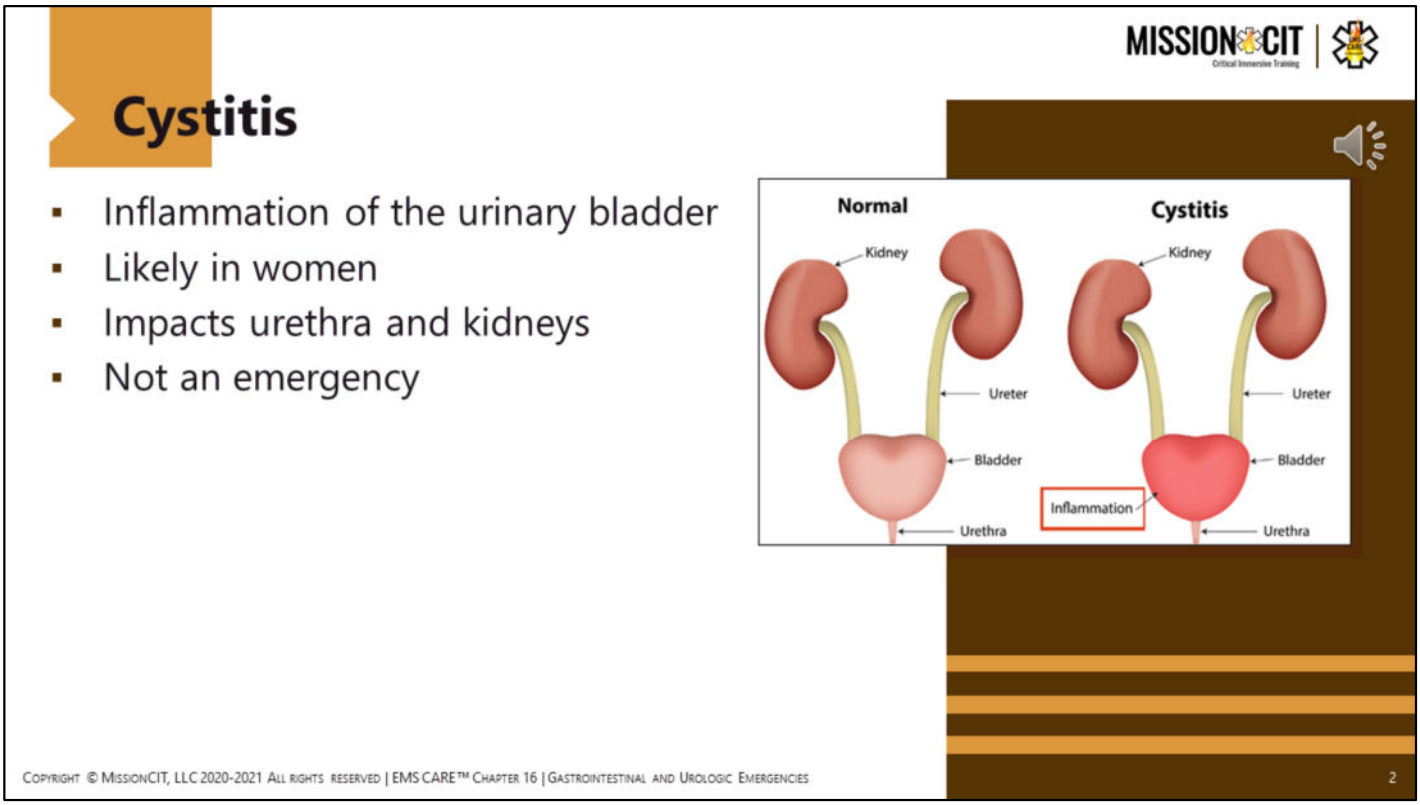


Thank you, Missah!

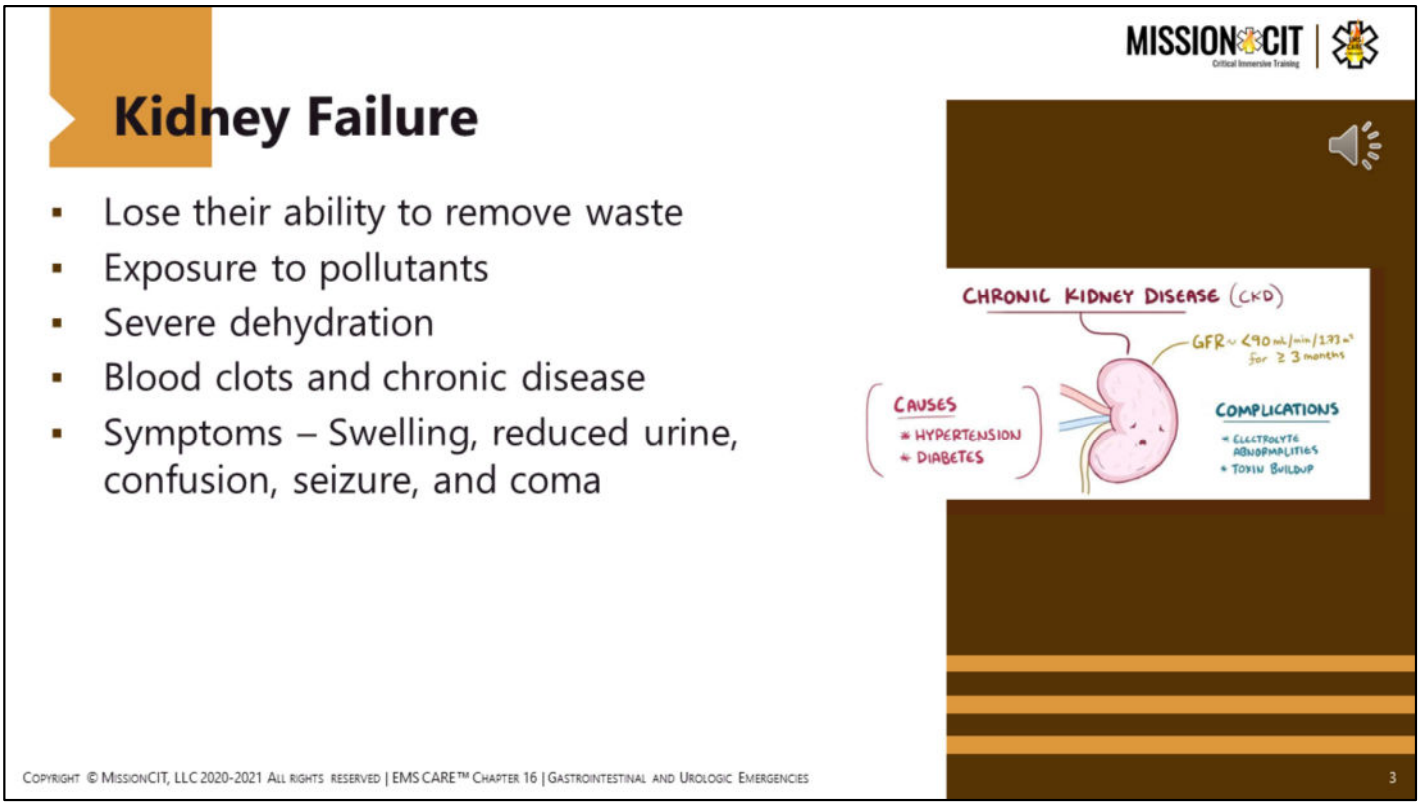
Welcome to this lesson where we talk about some of the common disorders that occur in the urinary system.



Cystitis is an inflammation of the urinary bladder and is caused by a bacterial infection. It is commonly called a Urinary Tract Infection, or UTI in short. They mostly occur in women and can impact the urethra too. Some severe cases will impact the kidney as well.

A bladder infection may cause pelvic pain, increased urge to urinate, pain with urination, and blood in the urine. A kidney infection may cause back pain, nausea, vomiting, and fever.

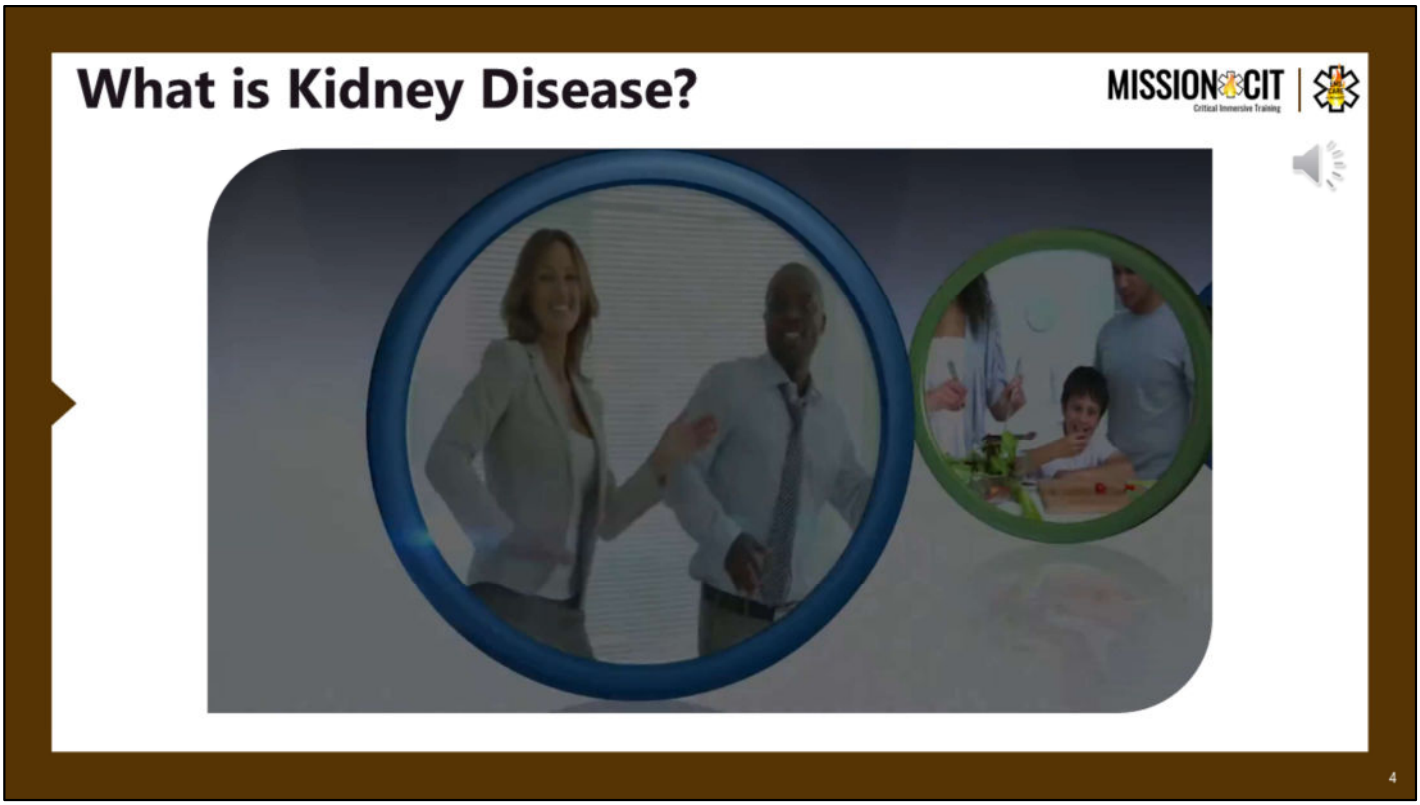
It is often not an emergency, so you can refer the patient to a doctor after a detailed examination to identify it.



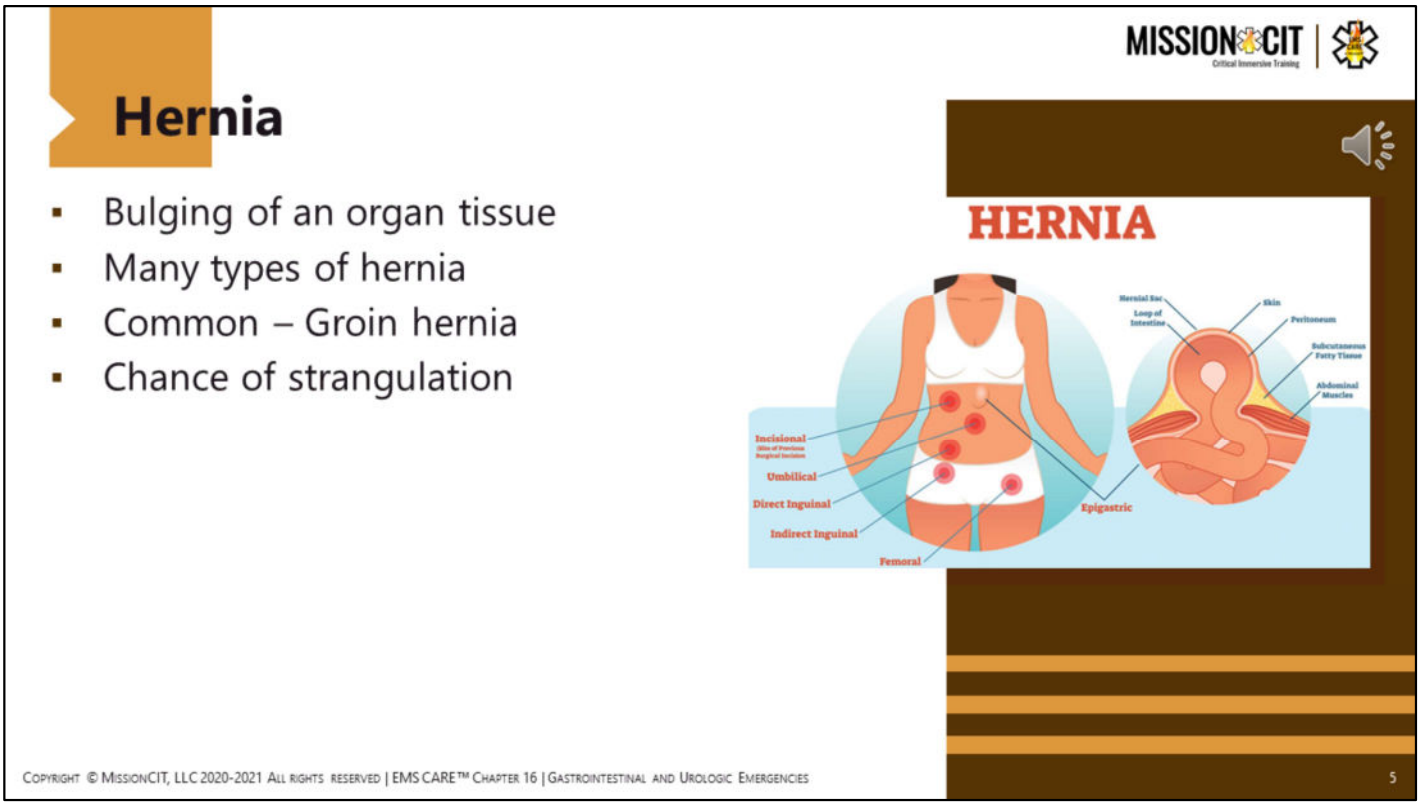
Kidney failure is a condition in which the kidneys lose their ability to remove waste and balance the pH levels of fluids. It occurs due to exposure to environmental pollutants or certain medications, severe dehydration, and kidney trauma. It can also be due to blood clots and other chronic diseases.

The common symptoms of this condition are a reduced amount of urine, swelling of legs and knees, shortness of breath, confusion, seizures, and even coma.

Chronic kidney diseases lead to complete renal failure. There isn't much you can do as an EMT, so it's best to transport the patient immediately.



In this video, Dr. Rodgers of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) tells us about kidney disease.

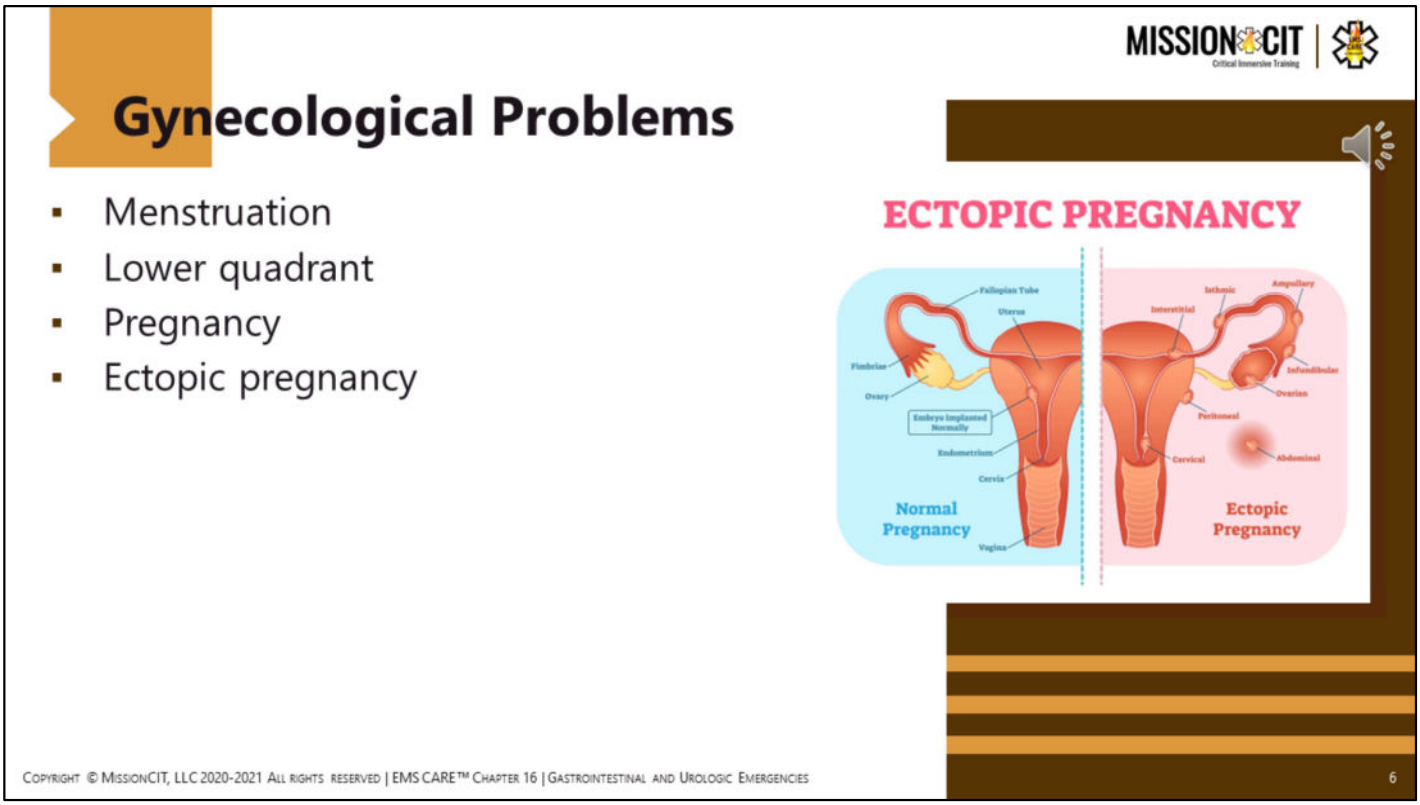


Hernia is a bulging of an organ or tissue through an abnormal opening such as the bowel or the cavity wall in which it resides. There are many types of hernia and the most common is the one that occurs in the groin.

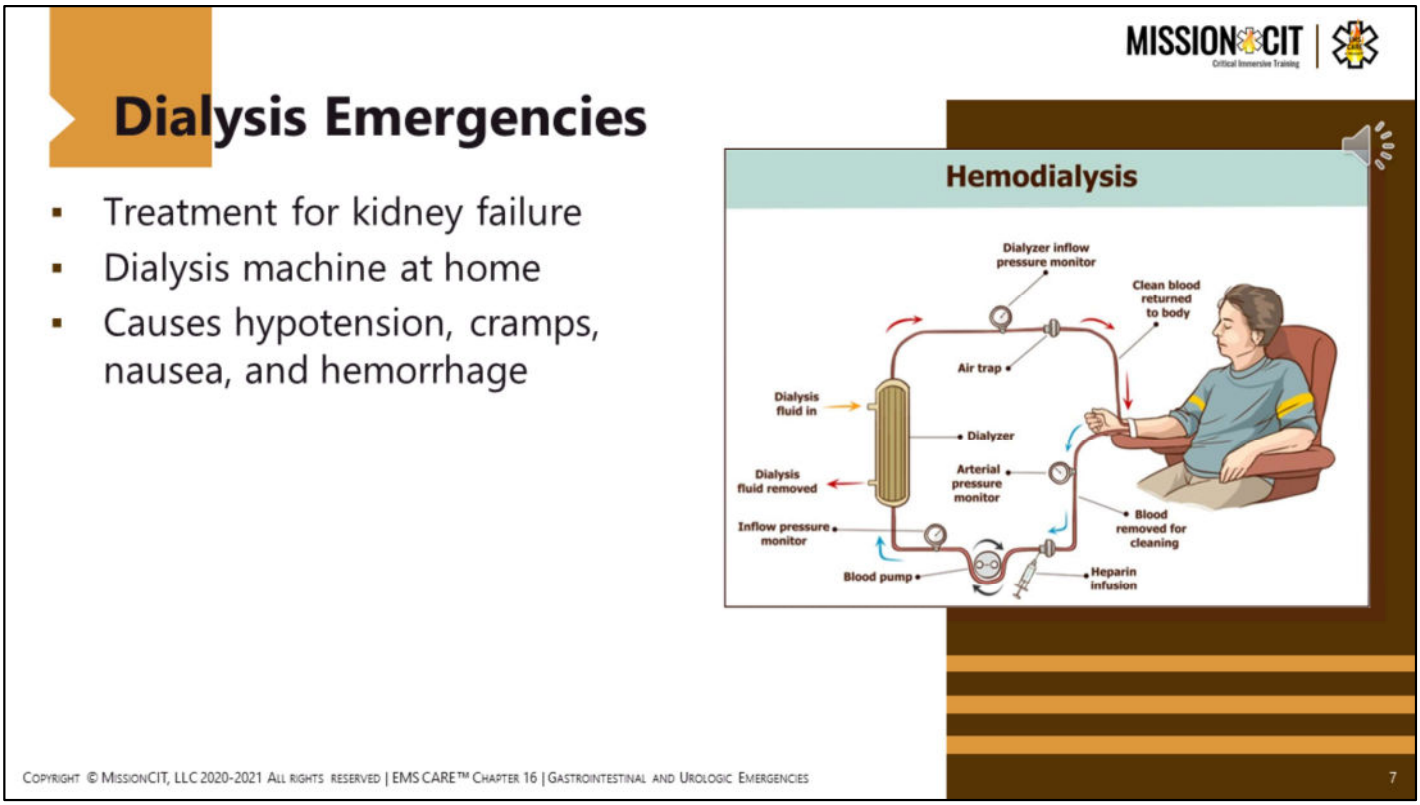
Symptoms include a bulge, swelling, or pain. In some cases, there are no symptoms. A serious hernia however has pain at the site and the entire place can have red or blue discoloration.

Treatment includes monitoring the condition. If required, surgery can return the tissue to its normal location and close the opening.

Here too, transport the patient if the pain is severe as there is a high chance of strangulation.



In females, abdominal pain can be due to gynecological problems related to menstruation. This is often seen in the lower quadrants of the abdomen that houses ovaries, fallopian tubes, and uterus. It can be an emergency if the patient is pregnant. Sometimes, ectopic pregnancy can also be a cause of abdominal pain, so you may want to transport her to the hospital.



Dialysis is the only treatment for kidney failure as it filters the blood, cleans it out of toxins, and returns it to the body. In fact, this is a life-saving treatment as the patient can suffer from pulmonary edema even if it is missed for a day. Though some people prefer to go to the hospitals, others may have a dialysis machine at home that functions just like kidneys.

Note that dialysis has side effects too such as hypotension, muscle cramps, nausea and vomiting, hemorrhage, or infection at the site. If you notice any of these symptoms, transport the patient or reach out to a paramedic who can check the working status of the dialysis machine.

With this, we come to the end of this lesson, and Missah will take you through the chapter review next.