

Haematemesis and Melaena

Information Required

- Focal gastrointestinal symptoms
- Medications (antiplatelets, anticoagulation, NSAIDs)
- Prior gastrointestinal surgery

Investigations Required

- FBE

Fax Referrals to

- **Gastroenterology Outpatient Clinic**
Flinders Medical Centre 8204 5555

Red Flags

- Significant drop in postural BP (≥ 20 mmHg systolic, ≥ 10 mmHg diastolic)
- Definite melaena
- Hb < 100 gm/L

Suggested GP Management

Assess for significant drop in postural BP (≥ 20 mmHg systolic, ≥ 10 mmHg diastolic) which indicates haemodynamic instability

Acute (haemodynamically unstable)

- Intravenous fluid resuscitation
- Keep patient fasted
- Ambulance transfer to Flinders Medical Centre Emergency Department
- Notify luminal Gastroenterology registrar on 8204 5511 pager #38009

Non-acute (haemodynamically stable)

- Check FBE
- Refer to Flinders Medical Centre Emergency Department and notify Gastroenterology Registrar on 8204 5511 pager #38009 if
 - Definite melaena
 - Hb < 100 gm/L or symptomatic
 - Age > 60 yrs or history of significant comorbidity
 - Anticoagulated

If Hb > 100 gm/L and asymptomatic

- Commence empirical proton pump inhibitor and refer urgently to Gastroenterology clinic

Clinical Resources

- Wee E. Management of nonvariceal upper gastrointestinal bleeding. J Postgrad Med [serial online] 2011 [cited 2014 Oct 20];57:161-7. Available from: <http://www.jpgmonline.com/text.asp?2011/57/2/161/81868>

Patient Information

- UpToDate Patient information: GI bleed (The Basics) http://www.uptodate.com/contents/gi-bleed-the-basics?source=search_result&search=GI+bleed&selectedTitle=1%7E150

General Information to assist with referrals and the and Referral templates for FMC are available to download from the SALHN Outpatient Services website www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/SALHNOutpatients

Version	Date from	Date to	Amendment
2.1	Nov 2017	Nov 2019	Removed all RGH details