Chronic Abdominal Conditions – Possible Signs

**Chronic liver disease**
- Flapping tremor
- Clubbing
- Leukonychia
- Palmar erythema
- Dupuytren’s contracture
- Jaundice
- Spider naevi
- Gynaecomastia
- Loss of axillary hair
- Distended abdominal veins
- Hepatomegaly (but often small in cirrhosis)
- Ascites

**Signs of aetiology:** Afro-Caribbean (sarcoid), slate-grey pigmentation/capillary glucose monitoring marks (haemochromatosis), tattoos (hepatitis C), xanthelasma (PBC), goitre/middle-age female (autoimmune), emphysema (α1-anti-trypsin deficiency)

**Signs of decompensation:** encephalopathy, jaundice, ascites

**Transplanted kidney**
- AV fistula
- Rutherford-Morrison scar (usually RIF)
- Smooth mass underlying scar (transplanted kidney)

**Signs of aetiology:** fingertip capillary glucose monitoring marks (diabetes), hearing aid (Alport syndrome), collapsed nasal bridge (granulomatosis with polyangiitis), butterfly rash (SLE), sternotomy (renovascular disease), flank masses (PKD)

**Functionality:** flap/excoriations (uraemia), active marks in AV fistula, pale conjunctiva (anaemia), fluid retention

**Previous renal replacement therapy:** AV fistula, central line and peritoneal dialysis scars (but transplant may have been done pre-emptively)

**Complications of immunosuppression:** tremor (calcineurin inhibitor), cushingoid/bruising (steroids), skin lesions/excisions (immunosuppression)

**Hepatosplenomegaly**
- Hepatomegaly/splenomegaly/both

**Signs of hepatomegaly aetiology:** signs of chronic liver disease, lymphadenopathy (malignancy/lymphoma), peripheral oedema/raised JVP (right ventricular failure)

**Signs of splenomegaly aetiology:** hand deformity (RA), signs of chronic liver disease, pale conjunctiva (leukaemia/myeloproliferative/haemolytic anaemia), lymphadenopathy (lymphoma)

**Liver transplant**
- Signs of chronic liver disease (but most resolve)
- Mercedes Benz modification scar

**Signs of aetiology:** Afro-Caribbean (sarcoid), slate-grey pigmentation/capillary glucose monitoring marks (haemochromatosis), tattoos (hepatitis C), xanthelasma (PBC), goitre/middle-age female (autoimmune), emphysema (α1-anti-trypsin deficiency)

**Complications of immunosuppression:** tremor (calcineurin inhibitor), cushingoid/bruising (steroids), skin lesions/excisions (immunosuppression)

**Combined kidney-pancreas transplant**
- Left iliac fossa scar (renal graft)
- Right iliac fossa scar (pancreas graft)
- Smooth mass underlying LIF scar (transplanted kidney)

**Signs of diabetic complications:** visual aids (retinopathy), Charcot joints, toe ulcers/amputations, neuropathy

**Renal graft functionality:** flap/excoriations (uraemia), active marks in AV fistula, pale conjunctiva (anaemia), fluid retention

**Pancreas graft functionality:** fingertip capillary glucose monitoring marks, insulin injection marks

**Previous renal replacement therapy:** AV fistula, central line and peritoneal dialysis scars (but transplant may have been done pre-emptively)

**Complications of immunosuppression:** tremor (calcineurin inhibitor), cushingoid/bruising (steroids), skin lesions/excisions (immunosuppression)

**Polycystic kidneys**
- AV Fistula (if undergoing dialysis)
- Hypertension
- Pale conjunctiva (anaemia)
- Flank scar (if either kidney has been removed)
- Bilateral ballotable flank masses
- Hepatomegaly (hepatic cysts)

**Polycythaemia rubra vera**
- Dusky cyanosis
- Hypertension
- Facial plethora
- Splenomegaly

**Hereditary spherocytosis**
- Pale conjunctiva
- Jaundice
- Splenomegaly

**Primary biliary cirrhosis**
- Middle aged female
- Icteric
- Increased skin pigmentation
- Excoriations
- Xanthelasma
- Hepatomegaly

**Signs of complications:** signs of chronic liver disease
**Xanthelasma**: lipid deposits around the eyelids

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**Nail Clubbing**

**Dupuytren’s Contracture**

**Koilonychia**: spoon shaped nails


**Glossitis**: inflammation of the tongue surface

**Spider nevus**: central red spot with telangiectasia radiating outwards. When pressed, the radiating veins refill from the centre

**Gynaecomastia**

**Inguinal hernia**

**Massive ascites**

**Jaundice**

**Striae**