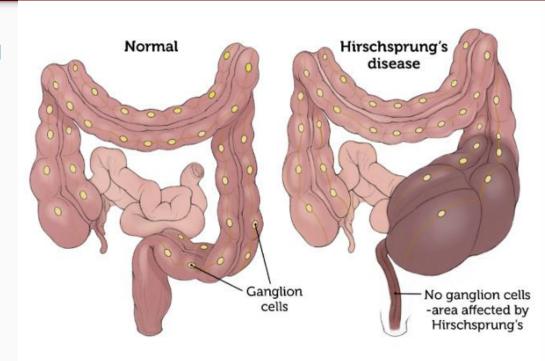
# Hirschsprung's Disease

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# What is Hirschsprung's Disease?

- Congenital disease that affects large intestines, most commonly the distal colon and rectum
- Unknown cause but associated with genetic mutations
- Improper development of the ganglion (nerve) cells in the colon
- No ganglion cells leads to inability to relax the segment, delaying progression of waste from digestion
- Colon swells with backed up stool causing blockage of bowel → constipation, partial or total obstruction



## Risk Factors

- Parent or sibling with Hirschsprung's, especially mothers
- Males 3-4x more common in boys than girls
- Other Conditions Down syndrome, Chagas disease, MEN II

# Symptoms & Clinical Presentation

#### Newborns

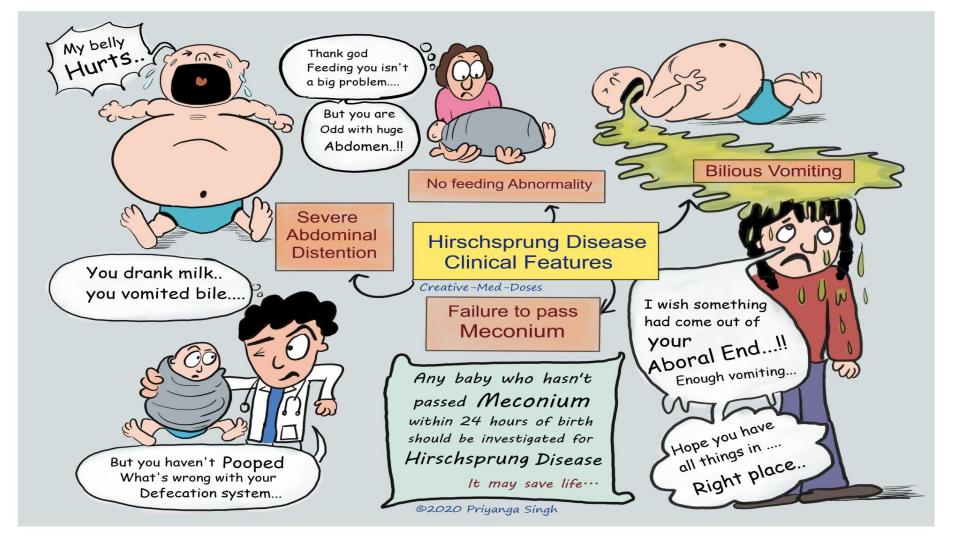
- Meconium ileus: failure to pass a bowel movement within first 24-48 hours of life
- Intestinal obstruction
- o Bilious (green/brown) vomiting
- Abdominal distention (swollen belly)

#### • Children

- Chronic constipation
- Abdominal distention (swollen belly)
- Passing small watery stools
- Failure to thrive (delayed growth)

### Complication → Enterocolitis

- Occurs in 30-40% of individuals affected by Hirschsprung's
- Vomiting, diarrhea, signs of toxic megacolon →pain, fever, bloody diarrhea, rapid heart rate
- Life-threatening serious intestinal infection → needs immediate treatment with antibiotics and bowel washouts



# Diagnosis

- Rectal suction biopsy definitive diagnosis
  - Absence of ganglion cells in the sample tissue under microscopy
- Abdominal X-Ray shows intestinal obstruction
- Contrast enema transition zone between normal and affected bowel
- Anorectal manometry balloons and pressure sensors to measure function of rectal nerves
  - Increased anal sphincter pressure and lack of relaxation of the internal sphincter with ballon rectal distension



Abdominal X-Ray with multiple loops of dilated small bowel



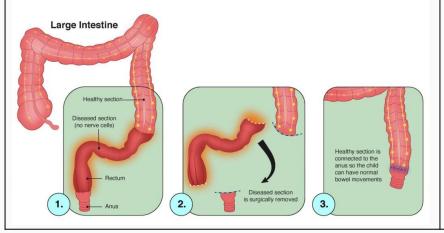
**Contrast Enema with visible Transition Zone** 

### Management → Surgical resection of the affected bowel segment

### **Pull Through Surgery**

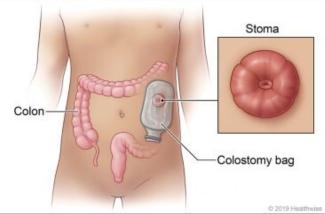
Diseased section is removed and healthy normal section is pulled through the colon from the inside and attached to the anus

### **Pull-Through Procedure**



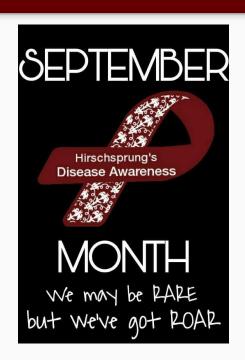
### **Ostomy Surgery**

- 1. Diseased section removed and healthy portion connected to an opening created in the abdomen. Stool leaves through the opening into a bag attached to the end of the intestine that protrudes through the hole. Allows time for the lower part of the colon to heal.
- 2. Stoma is closed and healthy portion of intestines is attached to the rectum or anus











- 1 out of 5000 live births
- Accounts for 20% of neonatal bowel obstructions



### Resources

- Pance Prep Pearls Dwayne A. Williams
- https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/hirschsprungs-disease/symptoms-causes/syc-20351556
  #:~:text=Hirschsprung's%20(HIRSH%2Dsproongz)%20disease,muscles%20of%20the%20baby's%20colon.
- https://www.childrenshospital.org/conditions/hirschsprungs-disease
- https://www.mountsinai.org/health-library/diseases-conditions/toxic-megacolon#:~:text=Toxic%20megacolon%20is%20characterized%20by,that%20requires%20immediate%20medical%20treatment.
- https://www.rch.org.au/uploadedFiles/Main/Content/cprs/CPRS%20Booklet%20-%20Hirschsprung%20As sociated%20Enterocolitis.pdf
- https://rarediseases.org/rare-diseases/hirschsprungs-disease/
- https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/cy/hirschsprung.html#:~:text=Hirschsprung%20disease%20occ urs%20in%201,rate%20of%2020%2D25%25.