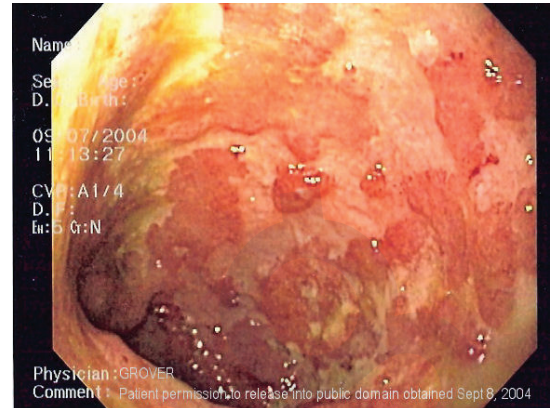


ULCERATIVE COLITIS PATHOCHART

PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

Ulcerative colitis is an inflammatory bowel disease that primarily affects the colon and rectum, causing edema, lesions, and ulcerations within the colon, leading to multiple bloody stools per day and significant fluid & electrolyte issues. Patients may experience poor nutrient absorption as well as periods of remission and exacerbation. Patients are often on chronic anti-inflammatory medications, but a colectomy with ileostomy can be considered curative.



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ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

- 10-20 liquid stools per day
- Blood and mucus in stools
- Malnutrition
- Dehydration
- Electrolyte imbalances
- Anorexia

DIAGNOSTICS

- Colonoscopy
- Tissue biopsy

NURSING PRIORITIES

- Balance Fluid & Electrolytes
- Optimize Nutritional Status
- Manage Elimination Needs

THERAPEUTIC MANAGEMENT

- Maintain NPO during acute phase
- Administering IV fluids and electrolytes
- Reduce intestinal activity
- Low residue, high protein, high calorie diet
- Avoid foods that exacerbate symptoms

MEDICATION THERAPY

- Corticosteroids
- Salicylates
- Immunomodulators
- Antidiarrheals