Hirschsprung disease

Signs & Symptoms

- Bloating/swollen stomach
- Explosive stool
- Abdominal pain
- Constipation
- Excessive gas
- Diarrhea

Pathophysiology

- Missing nerve cells in colon muscles
- Contents do not move through colon
- Colon contents cause blockage in bowel
- Baby does not pass first stool within 48 hours after birth

Diagnostics/Labs

- physical exam
- biopsy sample of colon
- abdominal Xray
- I&Os

Treatment/Medication

- Pull-through procedure: part of colon removed. Healthy intestine connected to anus
- Bowel resection with colostomy
- Serial rectal irrigation
- Formula that relieves constipation
- Broad spectrum antibiotics

Nursing Interventions

- Provide routine colostomy care
- May require NG tube to maintain fluid balance
- Administer analgesics for pain

Patient Teaching

- Report bleeding from rectum. May be a complication from surgery
- Teach parent about colostomy care at home

Other

Priority Nursing Diagnosis

- Fecal impaction

Student Name _____