

BOWELS, INFLAMMATION OF THE

Symptoms.— There is a general fever—which may begin with chills—accompanied with severe pain in some part of the abdomen, generally around the umbilicus— navel— or on the right side of the abdomen between the right hip and the umbilicus. The pain is increased by pressure, but colic pains are not. The patient lies on his back with his knees drawn up, so as to relax the abdominal walls. There is obstinate constipation generally, but sometimes diarrhea attends, the faeces being green and offensive. Soon the symptoms all become more marked, there is excessive thirst, dryness of the tongue, vomiting of bilious or offensive matter, and a watery diarrhea. When the lining membrane of the abdomen becomes inflamed consequent upon childbirth, the disease is called puerperal fever.

Treatment.— Reduce the inflammation by the constant application of the cold compress, changed as often as it becomes warm, or with the hot fomentation alternated with the cold compress every ten minutes. The hot sitz and foot-bath may be administered two or three times a day, ten or fifteen minutes at a time.

The bowels should be freed by tepid enemas. Ice water may be drunk frequently in small quantities. Reduce the fever, if there is any, with frequent wet-sheet-packs or tepid spongings. Treat *puerperal fever in the same manner.

**Puerperal fever is diagnosed with: A temperature rise above 38 °C (100.4 °F) maintained over 24 hours or recurring during the period from the end of the first to the end of the 10th day after childbirth. Oral temperature of 38 °C (100.4 °F) or more on any two of the first ten days postpartum.*

The Hygienic Family Physician: A Complete Guide for the Preservation of Health, and the Treatment of the Sick without Medicine, pg. 333-34 by M. G. Kellogg