Guidelines for Practitioners: Assessment of Eating Disorders

Physical Exam

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- Weigh backwards (blind weigh) on a consistent scale
- Oral temperature

- Supine & standing heart rate/blood pressure
- Respiratory rate
- Check hands/feet for swelling & color

Laboratory Tests

For all patients

- CBC w/diff
- Full thyroid panel (T2, T3, T4, TSH)
- EKG
- Urinalysis; specific gravity, sodium
- DXA Scan
- Complete metabolic profile
- Full chemistry amylase
- Serum Mg/glucose/electrolytes

For patients w/ >15% below IBW

- Chest X-Ray
- Complement 3 (C3)
- 24 hr creatinine clesrance
- Echocardiogram
- Estradiol level (testosterone in males)
- ANA, amylase, lipase, LH, FSH, prolactin

Review of Symptoms

Anorexia Nervosa

- Weight loss/low body weight
- Distorted body image
- Dizziness/fatigue
- Pale/yellow skin
- Cold intolerance
- Constipation
- Low muscle mass
- Loss/delay of menses
- Depression/anxiety
- Self-injury

Bulimia Nervosa

- Bingeing & purging
- Abdominal pain
- Bloating/heartburn/ reflux
- Sore throat
- Abuse of laxatives, diet pills, and/or diuretics
- Self-injury
- Depression/anxiety
- Feelings of shame & guilt

Binge Eating Disorder

- Loss of control over food intake
- No purging behaviors
- Weight fluctuations
- Eating large amount of food when not feeling physically hungry
- Eating much more rapidly than normal
- Self-medicates w/food
- Secretive eating

Physical Findings

Anorexia Nervosa

- Emaciated
- Hypotension
- Bradycardia
- Hypothermia
- Hypoglycemia
- Amenorrhea
- Lanugo hair
- Dry skin Hypercarotenemia
- Edema
- Anemia
- Cyanotic extremities

Bulimia Nervosa

- Normal or overweight
- Hypertensive
- Edema
- Electrolyte imbalance
- Dehydration
- Pancreatitis
- Extremity weakness
- Russell's sign
- Dental erosions
- Esophagitis
- Mallory-Weiss tears
- Boerhaave Syndrome

Binge Eating Disorder

- Overweight
- Gallbladder disease
- Increased BP
- Increased Cholesterol
- Heart Disease
- Type II Diabetes
- Lipid Abnormalities
- Osteoarthritis
- Sleep Apnea
- PCOS
- Kidney Problems
- Certain Cancers

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