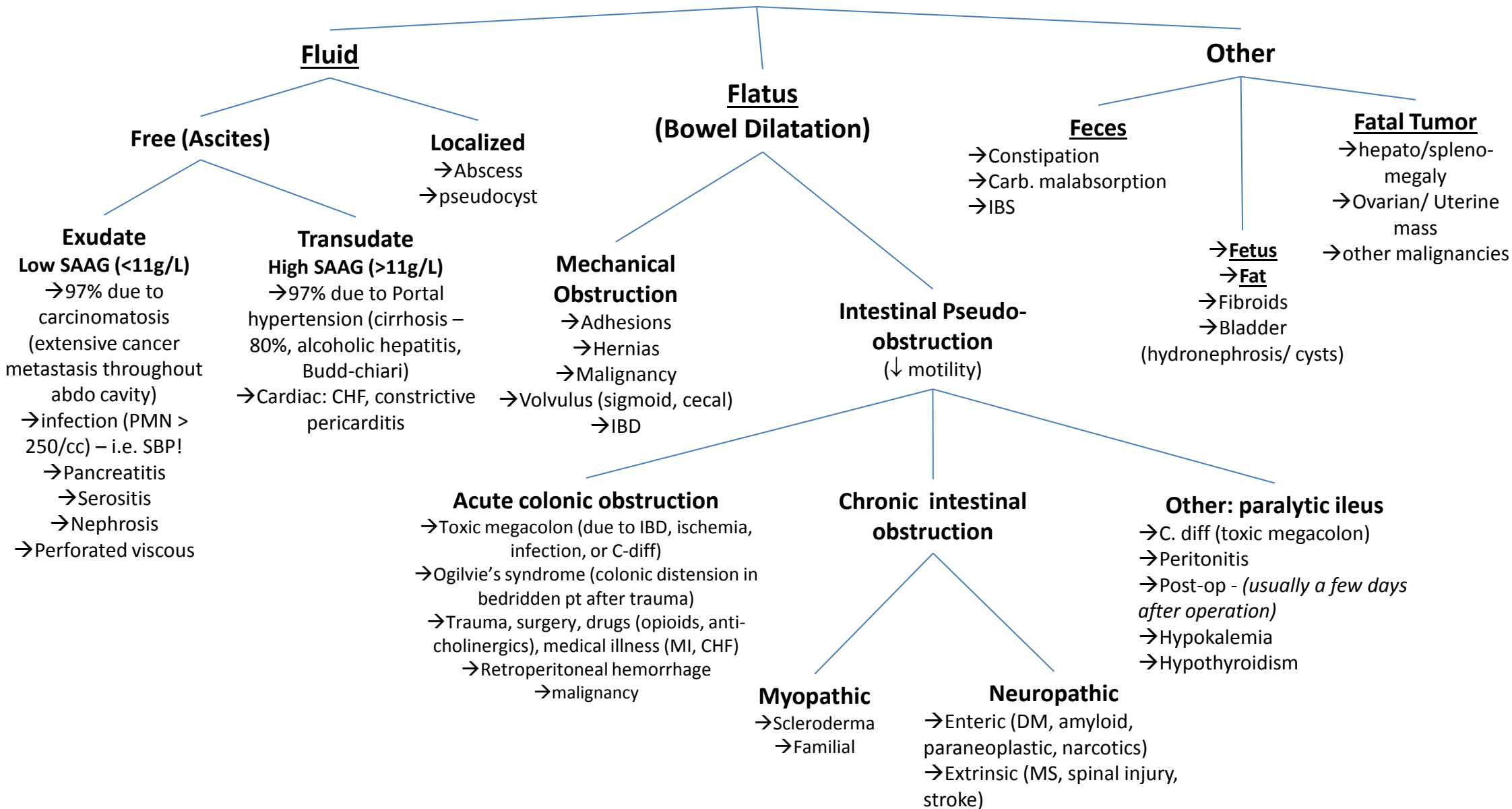


Abdominal Distension



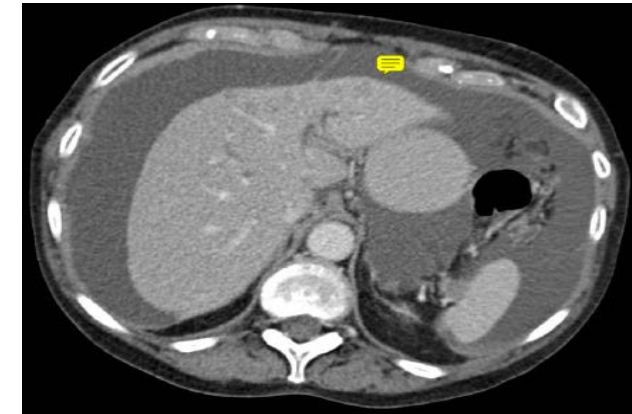
6 F's of abdominal distension: Fluid, Flatus, Feces, Fetus, Fat, Fatal Tumor!

Approach to Abdominal Distension

6 F's of abdominal distension: Fluid, Flatus, Feces, Fetus, Fat, Fatal Tumor!

Imaging of Abdomen

- **Abdominal X-rays** (3 views: upright, supine, and CXR)
- **Abdominal/pelvic Ultrasound** (differentiates between fluid or gas distension)
- **CT** (ascites shows up as grey fluid surrounding internal organs)
- **MRI** (if necessary)
- **Contrast studies** (barium swallow, small bowel follow-through, water-soluble contrast for obstructions)



Ascites with normal liver



Sigmoid volvulus – 8% of all intestinal obstructions, more common in elderly; coffee-bean on X-ray = diagnostic!



Cecal volvulus – dilated cecum in LUQ on X-ray = diagnostic! (1-2% of all intest. obstruction)
(also, bird's beak on contrast enema – tapering off at end of cecum near IC valve!)

