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GENERAL SURGERY BOARD REVIEW MANUAL

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Frequently Encountered Problems in Pediatric Surgery II: Older Infants and Children

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I. INTRODUCTION

Part I of this topic addressed surgical problems in neonates, including special considerations in preparing neonates for surgery. Specific conditions discussed included esophageal atresia, pyloric stenosis, congenital intestinal obstruction, omphalocele and gastroschisis, hernias, and necrotizing enterocolitis. Part II addresses commonly seen surgical problems that occur in older infants and children, including rectal bleeding, appendicitis, aspiration of a foreign body, and some of the more commonly seen tumors.

II. RECTAL BLEEDING

- A. **Causes.** Causes of rectal bleeding in children are listed in **Table 1**.
- B. **Meckel's diverticulum**
1. **Incidence.** There is a male-to-female predominance of 3:1.
 2. **Etiology.** Ulceration occurs in the ileal mucosa adjacent to the ectopic gastric mucosa that lines in varying amounts the Meckel's diverticulum or duplication. The diverticulum is usually within 100 cm of the