Pharmacology of drugs acting on gastrointestinal motility

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Abstract

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Laxative drugs. Laxatives are used to treat constipation (defined as passing hard stools less frequently than normal for the patient). The aetiology of constipation is varied and can be a symptom of organic disease, or can be a side effect of certain drug treatments (e.g. opioid-induced constipation, OIC). Laxatives are of clinical value in the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), OIC, as part of anthelmintic treatment or to clear the alimentary tract before surgery and radiological procedures.