

Symptom	Assessment	Management
<b>Dyspnea</b>	<p>Only reliable measure of dyspnea is self-report  Dyspnea w/ activity only or at rest, # blocks, triggers, frequency?  Rule out reversible causes (i.e. CHF exacerbation, pleural effusion, anemia, PE)  Explore what dyspnea means to patient and their relationship with their illness, impact on QOL, psych/spiritual distress</p>	<p>Treat underlying cause whenever possible (i.e. diuretics for CHF exacerbation, COPD exacerbation, transfusion for anemia)  Low dose opioids first line (&lt;30 OME/day)  Benzos if anxiety component; 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> line  Pacing activities, relaxation techniques (i.e. guided imagery), fan or window, cool cloth, room temp and minimize clutter  Acupuncture (data in COPD)</p>
<b>Fatigue</b>	<p>Focused fatigue history: onset, pattern, duration, change over time, associated factors, interference with function  Can also use screening tool, i.e. ESAS  Aim to understand impact on function, both physical and cognitive impact  Assess for contributing factors: emotional distress, sleep disturbance, pain, meds, medical causes i.e. anemia, thyroid, deconditioning</p>	<p>Treat reversible causes when able (i.e. dehydration, sleep, pain)  Education and counseling: cause of fatigue, energy conservation, setting realistic expectations, permission to rest  Pharm trt: steroids, psychostimulants (mixed data), ginseng (RCT data supporting use)  Non-pharm trt: exercise #1, cognitive behavioral therapy to manage stress, mindfulness, caffeine</p>
<b>Nausea/Vomiting</b>	<p>Characterize the nausea (OPQRST)  Associated symptoms (i.e. bloating and early satiety in gastric stasis; RUQ pain in gallbladder disease)  Past med history and recent treatments  Medication review for offending agents  Rule out constipation!  Physical exam (i.e. volume overload in CHF; abnormal bowel sounds/distention may signal SBO, ileus or constipation)  Labs and imaging PRN</p>	<p>Often multiple etiologies at play  Neural pathways with associated receptors mediate nausea/vomiting  Easier to stay ahead than catch up; atc anti-emetic dosing when necessary  Either empirical or mechanistic approach to anti-emetic selection ok (aka choose your favorite anti-emetic vs block a specific receptor)  Remove unpleasant odors  Small meals  Acupuncture (P6 acupoint)</p>