12.8: XII Glossary

**Borborygmus**: Hyperperistalsis, often referred to as “stomach growling.”

**Distention**: An expansion of the abdomen caused by the accumulation of air or fluid. Patients often report “feeling bloated.”

**Dysphagia**: Difficulty swallowing.

**Dysuria**: Painful urination.

**Guarding**: Voluntary contraction of abdominal wall musculature; may be related to fear, anxiety, or presence of cold hands.

**Hematochezia**: Passage of bloody stool.

**Hematemesis**: Blood-tinged mucus secretions from the lungs.

**Hyperactive bowel sounds**: Increased peristaltic activity; may be related to diarrhea, obstruction, or digestion of a meal.

**Hypoactive bowel sounds**: Decreased peristaltic activity; may be related to constipation following abdominal surgery or with an ileus.

**Melena**: Stool dark in color and tarry in consistency.

**Protuberant**: Convex or bulging appearance.

**Rebound tenderness**: Pain when hand is withdrawn during palpation.
**Rigidity:** Involuntary contraction of the abdominal musculature in response to peritoneal inflammation.

**Scaphoid:** Sunken appearance.

**Stiae:** White or silver markings from stretching of the skin.

**Urinary frequency:** Urination every hour or two.

**Urinary incontinence:** Involuntary leakage of urine.

**Urinary urgency:** An intense urge to urinate that can lead to urinary incontinence.