

### *Four Mechanisms of Diarrhea*

- Secretory Diarrhea- abnormal intestinal secretion of liquids caused by different diseases
- Osmotic Diarrhea- caused by poorly absorbed substances
- Abnormal motility and hyper motility of intestine
- Inflammatory diarrhea, ulceration, and inflammation results in discharge of mucus, protein and blood

### *Acute Diarrhea*

- Lasts less than 4 weeks
- Usually caused by viral, bacterial or fungal infections
- Food poisoning
- Drugs
- Inflammation- could be infection, idiopathic, or ischemic causes

### *Chronic Diarrhea*

- Lasts more than 4 weeks
- IBD
- IBS
- Parasitic Infestations
- Malabsorption
- Drug Induced
- Celiac Diseases
- Surgery- Cholecystectomy
- Colon Cancer
- Diverticulitis

### *Diagnostic Studies*

- Stool Studies
- Barium Enema
- Colonoscopy and Biopsy

## *Treatment*

- Directed by Individual Case of Diarrhea