

# Postop Fever Etiologies

- **Postop fever definition- 38°C (100.4°F)**
  - Early- Postop days 0-3
  - Late- Postop days 4-30
- **Differential diagnoses for early postop fever**
  - **Stress-mediated inflammation following surgery**
    - **Increased inflammatory cytokines (IL-1, IL-6, TNF-alpha) in response to surgical stress**
  - **Pneumonia**
  - **Urinary tract infection**
  - **Early surgical site infection**
    - **Clostridium perfringens**
    - **Group A Strep**
  - **Myocardial infarction**
  - **Other noninfectious causes**
    - **Deep vein thrombosis**
- **Differential diagnoses for late postop fever**
  - **surgical site infections (post-op day 4-30)**
  - **catheter-related infections**
  - **antibiotic-associated diarrhea - C. diff**
  - **Noninfectious causes - febrile drug reactions, VTE, gout**

## • A Few Pearls

- **Fever can be a normal response to surgery**
- **Most post-op fevers are due to surgical trauma**
- **Most fevers after POD 3 have an infection**