

PATHOBIOLOGY/AGENTS	INCUBATION PERIOD	VOMITING	ABDOMINAL PAIN	FEVER	DIARRHEA
Toxin producers					
Preformed toxin <i>Bacillus cereus</i> , <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> , <i>Clostridium perfringens</i>	1–8 h 8–24 h	3–4+	1–2+	0–1+	3–4+, watery
Enterotoxin <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> , enterotoxigenic <i>Escherichia coli</i> , <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> , <i>Aeromonas</i> species	8–72 h	2–4+	1–2+	0–1+	3–4+, watery
Enteroadherent Enteropathogenic and enteroadherent <i>E. coli</i> , <i>Giardia</i> organisms, cryptosporidiosis, helminths	1–8 d	0–1+	1–3+	0–2+	1–2+, watery, mushy
Cytotoxin producers <i>Clostridium difficile</i>	1–3 d	0–1+	3–4+	1–2+	1–3+, usually watery, occasionally bloody
Hemorrhagic <i>E. coli</i>	12–72 h	0–1+	3–4+	1–2+	1–3+, initially watery, quickly bloody
Invasive organisms					
Minimal inflammation					
Rotavirus and norovirus	1–3 d	1–3+	2–3+	3–4+	1–3+, watery
Variable inflammation <i>Salmonella</i> , <i>Campylobacter</i> , and <i>Aeromonas</i> species, <i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i> , <i>Yersinia</i>	12 h–11 d	0–3+	2–4+	3–4+	1–4+, watery or bloody
Severe inflammation <i>Shigella</i> species, enteroinvasive <i>E. coli</i> , <i>Entamoeba histolytica</i>	12 h–8 d	0–1+	3–4+	3–4+	1–2+, bloody

Source: Adapted from DW Powell, in T Yamada (ed): *Textbook of Gastroenterology and Hepatology*, 4th ed. Philadelphia, Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2003.

Finally, infectious diarrhea may be associated with systemic manifestations. Reactive arthritis (formerly known as Reiter's syndrome), arthritis, urethritis, and conjunctivitis may accompany or follow infections by *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, *Shigella*, and *Yersinia*. Yersiniosis may also lead to an autoimmune-type thyroiditis, pericarditis, and glomerulonephritis. Both enterohemorrhagic *E. coli* (O157:H7) and *Shigella* can lead to the *hemolytic-uremic syndrome* with an attendant high mortality rate. The syndrome of postinfectious IBS has now been recognized as a complication of infectious diarrhea. Similarly, acute gastroenteritis may precede the diagnosis of celiac disease or Crohn's disease. Acute diarrhea can also be a major symptom of several systemic infections including *viral hepatitis*, *listeriosis*, *legionellosis*, and *toxic shock syndrome*.

Other Causes Side effects from medications are probably the most common noninfectious causes of acute diarrhea, and etiology may be suggested by a temporal association between use and symptom onset. Although innumerable medications may produce diarrhea, some of the more frequently incriminated include antibiotics, cardiac antidysrhythmics, antihypertensives, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory