

TABLE Primary constipation			
	Normal transit	Slow transit	Defecatory dyssynergia
<b>Causes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stool traverses colon at a normal rate; stool frequency is normal</li> <li>• Constipation likely results from difficulty with evacuation or with hard stools</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mild: may be caused by dietary and cultural factors</li> <li>• Moderate to severe: may be the result of delayed emptying (proximal colon) and reduced high-amplitude peristaltic contractions</li> </ul>	Usually dysfunction of the pelvic floor or the anal sphincter
<b>Symptoms</b>	Possible bloating; abdominal pain or discomfort, increased rectal compliance and/or reduced rectal sensation	Bloating, abdominal pain or discomfort, infrequent urge to defecate	Feelings of incomplete evacuation, excessive straining, hard or pelletlike stools, digital disimpaction or vaginal splinting, reduced stool frequency, or sensation of anal blockage

Data from Lembo A and Camilleri M,<sup>13</sup> and Rao SS.<sup>14</sup>

TABLE Secondary constipation			
Neurogenic disorders	Nonneurogenic disorders	Prescription medications	Nonprescription medications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Autonomic neuropathy</li> <li>• Cerebrovascular disease</li> <li>• Hirschsprung's disease</li> <li>• Multiple sclerosis</li> <li>• Neurofibromatosis</li> <li>• Parkinson's disease</li> <li>• Shy-Drager syndrome</li> <li>• Spinal cord injury</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amyloidosis</li> <li>• Depression/anxiety</li> <li>• Dermatomyositis</li> <li>• Diabetes mellitus</li> <li>• Hypercalcemia</li> <li>• Hypokalemia</li> <li>• Hypomagnesemia</li> <li>• Hypopituitarism</li> <li>• Hypothyroidism</li> <li>• Mechanical obstruction</li> <li>• Myotonic dystrophy</li> <li>• Pheochromocytoma</li> <li>• Porphyria</li> <li>• Pregnancy</li> <li>• Systemic sclerosis</li> <li>• Uremia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5-HT<sub>3</sub> antagonists</li> <li>• Anticholinergics</li> <li>• Anticonvulsants</li> <li>• Antihistamines</li> <li>• Antihypertensives</li> <li>• Antiparkinsonian drugs</li> <li>• Antipsychotics</li> <li>• Calcium-channel blockers</li> <li>• Diuretics</li> <li>• Opiates</li> <li>• Sympathomimetics</li> <li>• Tricyclic antidepressants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antacids</li> <li>• Antidiarrheal agents</li> <li>• Calcium supplements</li> <li>• Iron supplements</li> <li>• NSAIDs</li> </ul>

Data from Wald A,<sup>15</sup> Locke GR 3rd et al,<sup>16</sup> and Faigel DO.<sup>17</sup>