Part I
Bacterial Infections of the Gastrointestinal Tract

Abstract Bacterial infections of the gastrointestinal tract are an important cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide, and can mimic other gastrointestinal diseases including ischemic colitis and chronic idiopathic inflammatory bowel disease. Although many bacterial infections of the gastrointestinal tract are diagnosed using microbiological cultures, tissue biopsy is an important diagnostic tool, especially as stool cultures are often not obtained prior to beginning antibiotic therapy. This section addresses common and uncommon bacterial infections affecting the gastrointestinal tract, including clinical setting, important associations with food and water, macroscopic and histologic features, differential diagnoses, and useful laboratory tests that can aid in diagnosis.