

MISSOURI GI SOCIETY

SCOPE IT OUT



MOGI Board members Dr. Marina Kim and colleagues at a SLU educational event, and Dr. Dayna Early with the Barnes endoscopy crew.

Take A Peek Inside

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MISSOURI GI SOCIETY

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Missouri GI Society (MOGI) is an organization started and led by gastroenterologists from around the state, focusing on bringing us together to improve GI care. We are a growing group of GI providers who will continue to focus on team building, advocacy, and education.

We are very excited to begin planning for our 2nd annual MOGI meeting in Kansas City September 19th. After a wonderfully successful inaugural in person meeting in 2025 where we were honored to have keynote speaker Dr Aasma Shaukat; as well as Drs. Wissam Kiwan and Judy Trieu from our very own state, we are excited to plan our next meeting. The Annual Meeting in 2026 will bring together GI physicians from around the state, with an amazing atmosphere of camaraderie, teaching and vendors with new technologies.

To do this work in advocating for our specialty, we need the participation of all the GI providers in the state. We can influence the specialty, but only by coming together and taking on those tough conversations with those making decisions. Impacts on GI can only be managed if we strive to work together and advocate for ourselves and our patients; so I urge you to come join us at MOGI and participate in the adventure.

Sheetal Sharma
Sheetal Sharma, MD, FACG
President, Missouri GI Society
(MOGI)

MISSOURI GI SOCIETY

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Advanced Gastroenterology Associates

<https://advancedgastrokc.com/>



Locations in Kansas City & Surrounding Areas

- ❖ NKC Health
- ❖ Advent Health
- ❖ Stormont Vail Health
- ❖ Golden Valley Memorial Healthcare
- ❖ Cameron Regional Medical Center
- ❖ Carroll County Memorial Hospital
- ❖ Mosaic Life Care

Advanced Gastroenterology Associates ("AGA") was established in 2023 as a group of experienced gastroenterology providers working to provide advanced, comprehensive gastrointestinal care for our communities. Our growing team comprises 7 physicians and 4 nurse practitioners, providing a suite of surgical and medical GI services. Listed above from left to right are: Dr. Syed Jafri, MD; Dr. Ahmed Saeed, MD; Dr. Adam Tritsch, MD; Dr. Fadi Bdair, MD; Dr. Steven Kaster, MD; Dr. Rishi Grewal, MD; and Dr. Lyla Saeed, MD. We look forward to connecting and working with you as a part of the MOGI community.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

March 3rd, 2026

Physician Advocacy Day in Missouri – Join members of MOGI in Jefferson City for an exciting day of Advocacy!!!!

Here is the link to sign up:

<https://www.msma.org/PAD>

All Missouri physicians, residents, fellows, medical students and Alliance members are invited to attend.

[Missouri State Medical Association – Physician Advocacy Day](#)
[MAOPS Advocacy Day | Osteopathic Medicine in Missouri](#)

The Missouri Medical Association website provides tools to easily identify and contact your representatives as well as the opportunity to donate to the Missouri Medical Political Action Committee. www.msma.org

CASE OF THE QUARTER

A 62-year-old woman with compensated cirrhosis secondary to non-alcoholic steatohepatitis presents for follow-up after undergoing large volume paracentesis for new-onset ascites two weeks ago. She reports significant symptomatic improvement after the procedure, with removal of 6 liters of fluid. She is currently taking spironolactone 100 mg daily, furosemide 40 mg daily, and following a 2-gram sodium diet as instructed.

Lab values

- Total bilirubin 1.2 mg/dL
- INR 1.1
- Creatinine 0.9 mg/dL
- Albumin 3.4 g/dL
- Sodium 138 mEq/L
- Potassium 4.2 mEq/L
- Her MELD score is 10. She has no history of hepatic encephalopathy or variceal bleeding. Physical examination reveals ascites, peripheral edema, and no asterixis. Her weight has remained stable over the past week.

What is the next best step in management?

1. Continue current regimen and reassess in 2-4 weeks.
2. Titrate spironolactone up to 400 mg/day and furosemide up to 160 mg/day.
3. Schedule repeat large volume paracentesis
4. Refer for transjugular intrahepatic shunt (TIPS) evaluation

Click link for answer: <https://www.missourigi.org/mogi-society-case-answers>

CASE OF THE QUARTER

In the next 3 months she requires 6 large volume paracentesis despite optimal diuretics and strict sodium restriction. She develops muscle cramps limiting further diuretic escalation. Her renal function and sodium remain normal, MELD score is 11, and she has no history of hepatic encephalopathy or cardiopulmonary disease.

What is the next best step in management?

1. Continue serial large-volume paracentesis with albumin replacement.
2. Add midodrine and further restrict dietary sodium.
3. Refer for elective transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt (TIPS) placement.
4. Stop diuretics and manage with paracentesis alone.
5. Refer for liver transplantation evaluation only.

This quarter's case is brought to us by
Drs. Marina Kim and Erica Becker

BECOME A MEMBER

Become a member of the Missouri Gastroenterology Society and keep up to date on the latest issues affecting GI providers throughout our state! Join by scanning the QR code or visit <https://www.missourigi.org/membership>.

Membership in the Society offers the following benefits:

- Complimentary registration to the MO GI Society's Annual Meeting
- Ability to Earn MOC Points and AMA PRA Category 1 Credit
- Establish new connections with gastroenterologists from around the state and share ideas about making all GI providers successful well into the future
- Advocate for the profession on legislative, regulatory, and payer (both public and private) issues state-wide.

