Protocol for Non-Operative Management of Small Bowel Obstruction

Criteria: a) Presumed adhesive bowel obstruction, b) CT scan findings consistent with SBO, and c) no indications for immediate surgery.

1. Place an 18Fr NGT (or largest one that can be placed)
2. Obtain a KUB to confirm the NGT is past the GE junction (under the diaphragm and in the stomach).
3. Place NGT to suction for 2 hours.
4. Keep HOB > 30 degrees
5. Administer 90cc of 37% gastrograffin into NGT
6. Clamp NGT for 1 hour then reconnect to suction
7. Order a KUB 8 hours after gastrograffin, if gastrograffin is in the colon then consider removal of NGT, if not in colon review film with attending and get KUB 24 hours after gastrograffin dose.
8. Discuss with the attending after each film.