

Could Preoperative Ultrasound Examination Improve the Final Outcome of Appendectomies?

Jaffar Alkhuzai, MBBCh, MRCSI, CABS, FACS*

Jassim Al Mehza, MBBCh, FACSC* Abdulrahman Bucheery, MBBCh**

Hassan Khuder, MBBS*** Raja Eid, MBBS*** Nooraldin A Ali, MBBCh***

Objective: To assess the efficacy of abdominal ultrasound in diagnosing acute appendicitis.

Design: Retrospective study.

Setting: Salmaniya Medical Complex, Kingdom of Bahrain.

Method: Data collected from files of 312 patients who had appendectomy between 1 January to 31 December 2009.

Result: Three hundred twelve patients had appendectomy, 114 (36.5%) had ultrasound (US) examination and only 57 (50%) showed radiological findings positive for appendicitis.

Thirty-seven (11.9%) patients had negative appendectomy. Twenty-three (11.6%) had negative appendectomy in clinical group, 3 (5.3%) patients were negative in positive ultrasound group and 11 (19.3%) patients in negative ultrasound group.

Conclusion: Ultrasound is not a reliable test to diagnose appendicitis as it carries low sensitivity and specificity, although it showed good predictive positive value.

Bahrain Med Bull 2013; 35(4):