

Positive and Negative Rates in Children with Acute Appendicitis

Hind Zaidan, MBBS* Fahad Khalfan, MBBCh BAO** Hussein Ahmed, MBBCh, MRCSEd, EBPS***
Martin T. Corbally, MBBCh FRCSI, FRCSEd, FRCS (Ped Surg)****

Background: Acute appendicitis remains the most misdiagnosed condition worldwide. Children tend to present with a variety of clinical symptoms, may have difficult communication and could be difficult to examine.

Design: A Retrospective Study.

Setting: King Hamad University Hospital, Bahrain.

Method: One hundred thirty-six patients who had appendectomy were reviewed between 1 May 2012 and 31 March 2016. The final diagnosis of acute appendicitis was the histological analysis of the excised specimen.

Result: One hundred thirty-six underwent appendectomy and were included in this study between 1 May 2012 and 31 March 2016. One hundred sixteen (85%) patients had uncomplicated appendicitis and 16 (12%) patients had complicated appendicitis. Four patients were histologically negative; Negative Appendectomy Rate (NAR) was 2.9%. Twelve patients had perforation; therefore, the Perforation Rate (PR) was 8.8%. Sixty-six (49%) laparoscopic appendectomies and 70 (51%) open appendectomies were performed. There was no significant difference between hospital stay and surgical technique; the average stay was 4.3 days.

Conclusion: Our study has demonstrated NAR of 2.9% for a histologically normal appendix; a perforation rate of 8.8%. This study revealed the need for a prospective study for the pediatric acute abdomen and a dedicated radiological resource focused on pediatric radiology. The diagnosis of appendicitis in children remains largely clinical with appropriate use of US.