

Pediatric acute appendicitis: Ultrasound diagnosis

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11 yo female presented to the ED for 2 days of nausea and abdominal pain that localized to the right lower quadrant. She had no fever, urinary symptoms, vomiting or diarrhea. Her vitals were a temperature of 99.5 F and heart rate of 118. Abdominal tenderness was maximal over McBurney's point, with voluntary guarding. Given a preference to avoid ionizing radiation, ultrasound was selected to evaluate for appendicitis. Our institution has limitations in obtaining formal appendix ultrasound studies; thus a bedside ultrasound was performed by a trained EM physician. At the point of maximal tenderness, a blind-ending, non-compressible structure was identified, with a maximal diameter of 1.2 cm, consistent with acute appendicitis. (Figs. 1 and 2) A definitive diagnosis was obtained within minutes of the patient being in the ED. The child subsequently underwent an uncomplicated laparoscopic appendectomy confirming acute appendicitis.¹⁻³

Supplementary material

Supplementary material associated with this article can be found, in the online version, at doi:10.1016/j.visj.2018.10.001.

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Fig. 1. Clarification of video in Figure 1, shows outline of inflamed appendix.

