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Rate of Negative Histology of the Appendix in Children (Age 8–16 Years)

Abstract:

Introduction: The National Negative Appendicectomy Rate (NAR) is a key measure of emergency surgical care in children. The GIRFT report recommends reducing NAR to 5% to prevent unnecessary surgeries. This study evaluates the NAR in pediatric patients and compliance with diagnostic protocols.

Methodology: A retrospective audit was conducted on appendicectomy cases from July 2021 to September 2022, focusing on 18 pediatric cases (ages 8–16). Patient records, imaging results, and histology findings were reviewed to assess compliance and outcomes.

Results:

- One case (5.5%) had negative histology, aligning with national recommendations.
- Ultrasound scanning (USS) was used in five cases; two confirmed appendicitis, one was negative, and two were inconclusive.
- Two cases with negative USS had positive post-operative histology.
- The average hospital stay was 1.38 days, with 13 patients discharged within 24 hours.

Discussion: Structured diagnostic scoring enhances surgical decision-making. One case scored 2.5 (intermediate risk) and another 5 (high risk). MRI for low/moderate-risk cases may reduce unnecessary surgery.

Conclusion: The audit confirms compliance with national NAR recommendations. Future improvements should focus on refining risk stratification and integrating advanced imaging. Findings will be shared with the pediatric team at Barnsley and SYB ICS.

Biography

Mohannad has completed his Medicine of doctor (MD) at the age of 24 years from University of Jordan and has been working in the NHS for the last 2 years. He is currently working in General Surgery Department.