CHRONIC APPENDICITIS AS A CAUSE OF RIGHT ILIAC FOSSA PAIN AND THE ROLE OF APPENDECTOMY

THESIS

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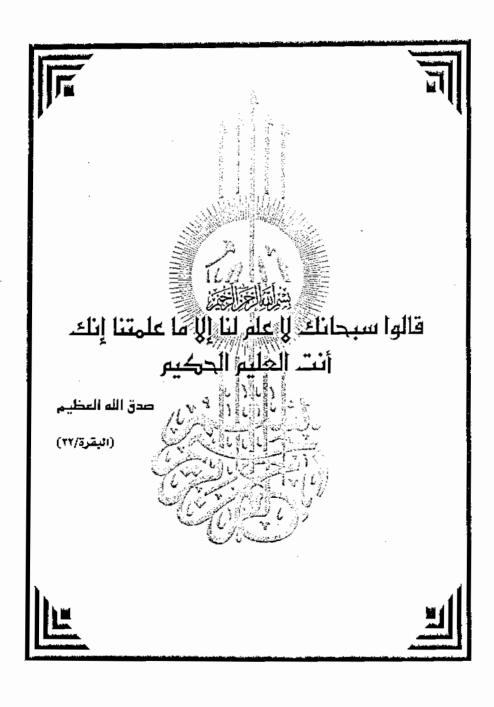
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INTRODUCTION

Chronic appendicitis has long been a controversial disease entity. In contrast to acute inflammation of the appendix, chronic appendicitis may be more insidious and may be accompanied by ambiguous signs and symptoms (Falk, et al. 1991).

Since appendectomies performed for a variety of nonspecific abdominal complaints diagnosed as chronic appendicitis did not have the expected results, the concept of chronic inflammatory lesions of the appendix has fallen into disfavor (Falk, et al. 1991).

However, recent investigations of large series of patients have re-established the concept of chronic appendicitis and showed the benefit of appendectomy in relieving the symptoms in these chronic sufferers after exclusion of an alternative cause for the symptoms (Hawes & Whalen, 1994) and (Mattei, et al. 1994).

This study is aiming to review chronic appendicitis as a disease entity and to justify the value of appendectomy in relieving symptoms in those chronic sufferers.

