The role of Ultrasonography, CT scanning and Isotope scanning in the diagnosis of acute abdomen.

Essay

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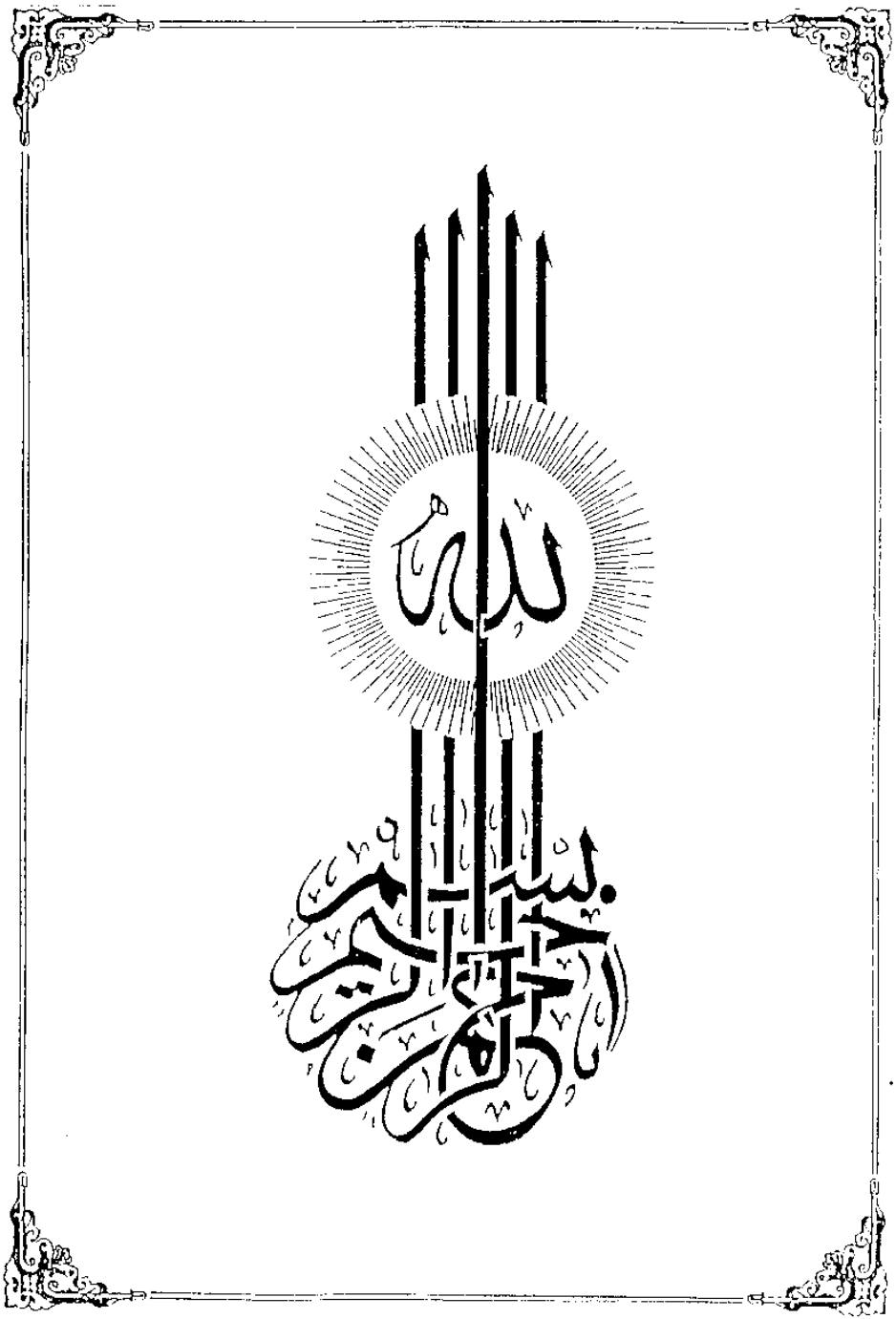

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Introduction

An acute abdomen is a clinical condition characterized by severe abdominal pain that develops suddenly over several hours or less. Abdominal tenderness and rigidity, either generalized or localized,usually are severe and indicate an urgent need for prompt diagnosis and treatment.

The list of differential diagnosis of acute abdomen is very long and varies with the age and sex of the patient.

The diagnostic workup of acute abdomen always begins with a precise clinical history, a complete physical examination, and a careful reading of plain films. Commonly performed additional imaging studies include contrast examination.

The past few years have seen a significant progress in the development and continued improvement of non-invasive cross sectional imaging modalities including ultrasonography,CT scanning and MRI that facilitated greatly the diagnosis of many abdominal conditions.

CT offers the advantage of allowing a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation of both solid and hollow viscera in neoplastic as well as in inflammatory and vascular disorders.

The application of radiopharmaceutical imaging technique in diagnosing disorders amenable to surgical therapy is expanding. The beginity, simplicity, and rapidity of this diagnostic modality make it an excellent scanning procedure, It is very sensitive in detection of many acute abdominal conditions.

Aim of work

The aim of this work is to discuss the role of ultrasonography, CT scanning and isotope scanning in evaluating patients with acute abdomen.