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شبكة المعلومات الجامعية التوثيق الالكتروني والميكروفيلم



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COMPARISON BETWEEN COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY AND ULTRASONOGRAPHY IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF APPENDICITIS

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INTRODUCTION

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Appendicitis is the most common cause of abdominal pain that requires surgical intervention (*Brown et al.*, 1991) also appendicitis may cause many complications when the appendiceal lumen becomes occluded, resulting in an accumulation of fluid, appendiceal dilation, inflammation, ischemia and eventually perforation with possible abscess formation.

Patients with the disease may present with a wide variety of clinical manifestations, and the diagnosis may elude even the most experienced clinicians (Williams et al., 1983).

Prompt diagnosis is essential to minimise morbidity, which remains substantial if perforation occurs.

The clinical diagnosis is based on the history and the physical examination, which play a major role in the clinical diagnosis. Although many patients present with typical clinical signs and symptoms, allowing for prompt diagnosis and treatment, some patients have typical and frequently confusing presentations, leading to misdiagnosis. This is specially problematic in women of child-bearing age (Berry et al., 1984).

Without the use of diagnostic imaging, the accuracy of pre-operative diagnosis of appendicitis ranges between 70 to 78% (Zoller et al., 1996).

Laparotomy resulting in the removal of normal, non-inflamed appendices was reported in 16 to 47% of cases, with a mean of 26% (*Kacanan et al.*, 1994). Current medical practice recognises the necessity of removing some normal appendices to minimise perforation rates.

Until recently, the diagnosis of appendicitis using radiological techniques included plain abdominal X-ray in which the findings are non specific, and abnormalities do not occur with enough frequency to justify the routine use of the examination (Campbell et al., 1988) also barium enema examination can be performed safly and quickly with the double contrast technique. Complete filling of the normal appendix exculdes the diagnosis of appendicitis. Non filling or incomplete filling does not always indicate appendicitis but the presence of an extrinsic mass effect of the cecum helps to confirm the diagnosis (Fedyshin et al., 1984).

During the past 5 years, several imaging techniques have been advocated for diagnosing appendicitis (Brown 1991).

Direct sonographic visualization of the appendix by applying graded compression to the Rt. lower quadrant of the abdomen, has been described by *Puylaert* (1988).

Also Puylaert (1988) described the value of graded compression sonography in the evaluation of patients suspected of having appendicitis. Since then, other investigators have improved the sonographic criteria for diagnosis of appendicitis, firmly establishing the value of sonography in