



# **Role of Computed Tomography in Diagnosis of Appendicitis and Its Complications**

*Thesis*

Submitted for Partial Fulfillment of the Master  
Degree in Radiodiagnosis

*By*

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2019**

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

قالوا

سُبْحَانَكَ لَا عِلْمَ لَنَا  
إِلَّا مَا عَلَّمْتَنَا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ  
الْعَلِيمُ الْعَظِيمُ

صدق الله العظيم

سورة البقرة الآية: ٣٢



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, thanks to **Allah** whose magnificent help was the main factor in completing this work.

No words could express my deepest thanks and appreciation to **Prof. Dr. Naglaa Hussein Shebrya**, Professor of Radiodiagnosis, Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, for inspiring me with the idea of this work. Her patience, precious advice and guidance enlightened my way throughout this work.

I want also to express my profound gratitude to **Prof. Dr. Amr Mahmoud Abdelsamad**, Assistant Professor of Radiodiagnosis, Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University, for his patience, valuable advice and continuous help in completing this work.

Finally, my deepest thanks to all my family and colleagues who helped me in the production of this work.

# Contents

Subjects	Page
List of abbreviations.....	II
List of figures.....	III
List of tables.....	VII
• <b>Introduction</b> .....	1
• <b>Aim of the Work</b> .....	3
• <b>Review of Literature</b>	
♦ <b>Chapter (1): Anatomy of Appendix</b> .....	4
♦ <b>Chapter (2): Pathology of Appendicitis</b> .....	13
♦ <b>Chapter (3): Physical principal of Multislice         Computed Tomography</b> .....	44
• <b>Patients and Methods</b> .....	55
• <b>Results</b> .....	59
• <b>Illustrative Cases</b> .....	63
• <b>Discussion</b> .....	71
• <b>Summary and Conclusion</b> .....	74
• <b>References</b> .....	76
• <b>Arabic Summary</b>	

## **List of Abbreviations**

CT	: Computed tomography
IV	: Intravenous
MDCT	: Multidetector-row CT
MSCT	: Multislice computed tomography
US	: Ultrasound

## **List of Figures**

<b><u>No.</u></b>	<b><u>Figure</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
<b><u>1</u></b>	Normal location of the appendix relative to other organs of the digestive system, frontal views.	<b>4</b>
<b><u>2</u></b>	Positions of the vermiform appendix.	<b>6</b>
<b><u>3</u></b>	The mesoappendix is derived from the posterior side of the terminal ileal mesentery. It attaches to the cecum and to the proximal appendix. It contains the appendiceal vessels.	<b>7</b>
<b><u>4</u></b>	Transverse section of a healthy adult appendix.	<b>8</b>
<b><u>5</u></b>	Blood supply of the cecum and appendix	<b>10</b>
<b><u>6</u></b>	Gross picture of early appendicitis, showing notable congestion of serosal vessels.	<b>17</b>
<b><u>7</u></b>	Gross picture of acute suppurative appendicitis, presenting a hypaeremic appendix with serosal surface dullness, serosal purulent exudates, and mesoappendix involvement.	<b>18</b>
<b><u>8</u></b>	Gangrenous appendicitis showing marked black discoloration.	<b>18</b>
<b><u>9</u></b>	(a) Non-enhanced axial CT shows surrounding inflammatory mesenteric stranding with diffuse thickening of distal caecum (arrow); (b) Non enhanced CT shows thickened and enlarged appendix (arrow) with luminal dilatation with diameter 11 mm in its cross section. (c) Non enhanced axial CT shows intraluminal appendicolith (arrow) measuring 9 mm. (d)	<b>24</b>

## *List of Figures*

---

<b><u>No.</u></b>	<b><u>Figure</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
	Coronal section of Non Contrast Enhanced CT abdomen shows thickening of distal ileal loops and caecum with pericolic mesenteric fat stranding (arrow head) and intraluminal appendicolith (arrow).	
<b><u>10</u></b>	CT scans in 36 years old man with right lower quadrant acute pain.	<b>26</b>
<b><u>11</u></b>	Value of intravenous iodinated contrast in detecting acute appendicitis and its inflammatory changes.	<b>29</b>
<b><u>12</u></b>	Value of oral contrast. Coronal image done with oral and intravenous contrast shows an appendicular thick walled (arrow) with subtle inflammatory changes.	<b>30</b>
<b><u>13</u></b>	(A) Transverse CT scan obtained with intravenous and oral contrast shows a distended appendix (arrows) (B) Coronal reformation confirms the distended thick-walled enhancement of the appendix. Note the appendicolith (arrow).	<b>31</b>
<b><u>14</u></b>	Acute appendicitis on CT.	<b>32</b>
<b><u>15</u></b>	Acute appendicitis.	<b>33</b>
<b><u>16</u></b>	48 years old man with periumbilical pain who was referred to exclude acute appendicitis.	<b>34</b>
<b><u>17</u></b>	28 years old woman with right lower quadrant pain caused by a pyosalpinx.	<b>35</b>
<b><u>18</u></b>	Perforated appendicitis. Axial CT image of the pelvis with oral and intravenous contrast media demonstrating a perforated appendix with an appendicolith (black arrow).	<b>39</b>

## *List of Figures*

<b><u>No.</u></b>	<b><u>Figure</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
<b><u>19</u></b>	Perforated appendicitis with adjacent extraluminal gas. CT with intravenous and rectal contrast.	<b>40</b>
<b><u>20</u></b>	Appendiceal abscess. Coronal CT image of the abdomen and pelvis following intravenous contrast medium in a female patient demonstrating an appendix abscess.	<b>40</b>
<b><u>21</u></b>	Appendiceal Mucocoele. Axial CT with oral contrast medium shows a cystic mass arising from the caecal pole with peripheral calcification.	<b>41</b>
<b><u>22</u></b>	Appendiceal mucinous adenocarcinoma. Axial CT images of the abdomen following the administration of intravenous and oral contrast media of a 64- year-old woman with a large cystic mass with enhancing septa.	<b>42</b>
<b><u>23</u></b>	Mucocoele with perforation and pseudomyxoma. Axial CT image of the abdomen in a 69-year-old man demonstrating a predominantly cystic lesion arising from the caecal pole with a calcified wall (white arrows).	<b>43</b>
<b><u>24</u></b>	Single slice and multislice (multi-row) detector CT.	<b>46</b>
<b><u>25</u></b>	Anatomic area scanned in a single X-ray tube rotation. In MSCT the higher the detectors number, the wider the anatomic area scanned during each X-ray tube rotation.	<b>46</b>
<b><u>26</u></b>	Examples of GE Light Speed.	<b>48</b>
<b><u>27</u></b>	Data Acquisition Geometry for Multislice	<b>49</b>



## *List of Figures*

---

<b><u>No.</u></b>	<b><u>Figure</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
	CT.	
<b><u>28</u></b>	Patient Collimation (Pre and Post).	<b>50</b>
<b><u>29</u></b>	Fan Beam Geometry and Cone Beam Geometry.	<b>51</b>
<b><u>30</u></b>	Distribution of patients according to CT findings.	<b>59</b>
<b><u>31</u></b>	Distribution of patient according to sex.	<b>60</b>
<b><u>32</u></b>	Distribution of patients according to age for males and females.	<b>61</b>
<b><u>33</u></b>	Distribution of patients according to type Appendicitis or its complication.	<b>62</b>
<b><u>Case 1</u></b>	A 54 year old male with right iliac fossa pain.	<b>63</b>
<b><u>Case 2</u></b>	A 22 year old male with right iliac fossa pain with fever.	<b>64</b>
<b><u>Case 3</u></b>	A 16 year old female with Known case of post appendectomy.	<b>65</b>
<b><u>Case 4</u></b>	A 38 year old male with right iliac fossa pain.	<b>66</b>
<b><u>Case 5</u></b>	A 18 year old male with right iliac fossa pain.	<b>67</b>
<b><u>Case 6</u></b>	A 29 year old male with right iliac fossa pain.	<b>68</b>
<b><u>Case 7</u></b>	A 15 year old female with right iliac fossa pain.	<b>69</b>
<b><u>Case 8</u></b>	A 15 year old male with right iliac fossa pain.	<b>70</b>

## **List of Tables**

<b><u>No.</u></b>	<b><u>Table</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
<b><u>1</u></b>	Positions of vermiform appendix.	<b>5</b>
<b><u>2</u></b>	Alvarado score in diagnosis of acute appendicitis.	<b>21</b>
<b><u>3</u></b>	Distribution of patients according to CT findings.	<b>59</b>
<b><u>4</u></b>	Distribution of patients according to sex.	<b>60</b>
<b><u>5</u></b>	Distribution of patients according to age and sex.	<b>61</b>

## Introduction

Acute appendicitis is the most common surgically managed cause of abdominal pain, largely in the 10–30-year age group. Acute appendicitis was once a clinical diagnosis made without imaging, but computed tomography (CT) is now considered the standard of care.*(Kara Gaetke-Udager et al., 2014).*

For almost two decades CT has been widely used for diagnosing appendicitis; studies have consistently demonstrated the high sensitivity and specificity of CT for this diagnosis. Standard imaging practices include the use of intravenous iodinated contrast. Positive (high-attenuation) oral contrast, and sometimes positive rectal contrast, have also been recommended*(Naeger et al., 2011).*

CT scans perform uniformly high in diagnosing appendicitis with 99% sensitivity and 95% specificity , regardless of scanning techniques or combinations of oral, rectal, or intravenous (IV) contrasts.

There is a consequent increase in the use of preoperative diagnostic CT scans to reduce the negative appendectomy rate for suspected acute appendicitis *(PiyapornApisarnthanarak et al., 2014).*

It is generally accepted that ultrasound (US) is a useful diagnostic tool for detecting Acute Appendicitis and has excellent specificity in diagnosing this disease. However, US also exhibits variable sensitivity and results with respect to the diagnosis of Acute Appendicitis due to its operator-dependent nature. Therefore, the use of computed tomography (CT) has become popular as the initial imaging study for suspected Acute Appendicitis in children, especially in emergency settings (*Naoki Hashizume et al., 2016*).

MDCT can be used effectively in the preoperative evaluation of appendicitis and provides high accuracy for detecting its complications and other incidental findings rather than appendicitis causing right lower quadrant pain, guiding the physicians for the proper management of these patients (*Randa Kaddah and Amr Ayad, 2016*).

MDCT is recommended in cases of pediatric abdominal pain with confusing presentation in the ED that cannot be diagnosed accurately after clinical data and sonography. The use of MDCT scans can offer greater accuracy as well as an ability to identify alternative diagnoses such as appendicitis, neoplasms and gastrointestinal abnormalities (*Wei-Ching Lin and Chien-Heng Lin, 2016*).

## **Aim of the Work**

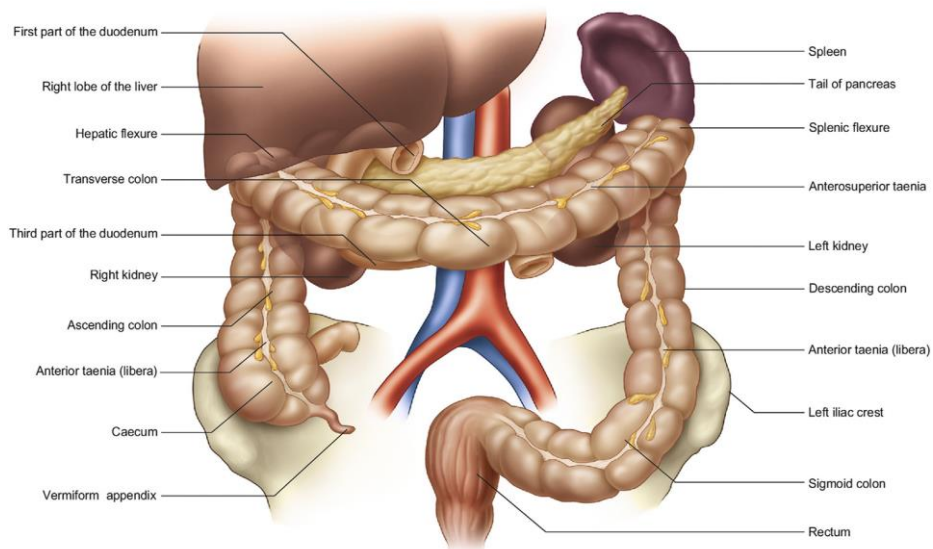
The aim of the work is to describe the value and role of Multislice computed tomography in diagnosing appendicitis and its complications.

## *Chapter (1)*

# **Anatomy and CT Anatomy of the Appendix**

### **Gross anatomy:**

The word vermiform is derived from the Latin word "Vermiforma" means worm shaped or resembling worm, hence called 'vermiform', Appendix is narrow blind tube arising from the postero-medial wall of caecum. Anatomically, it is one of the mobile viscera of abdomen (*JanardhanRao.M et al., 2014*).



**Fig. (1):** Normal location of the appendix relative to other organs of the digestive system, frontal views (*Mahadevan, 2017*).

The vermiform appendix is a blind diverticulum that arises from the posteromedial aspect of the caecum, about 2.5 cm inferior to the ileocaecal valve. Its length is, on average, 7:8 cm (range: 1:20 cm) (*Mahadevan, 2017*).

The appendix lies deep at Mc. Burney's point which is the meeting point of proximal and distal thirds of the line which is drawn extending from anterior superior iliac spine to umbilicus (*MianAzhar Ahmad et al., 2017*).

The appendix is the only organ that has no constant anatomical position in the body. The attachment of the base of appendix to the caecum remains constant, whereas the tip can be found in a retrocaecal, subcaecal, pelvic, paracolic, post ileal and preileal position. It is connected to the lower part of the ileal mesentery by the short mesoappendix.

**Table(1): Positions of vermiform appendix.**

SL No.	Positions of vermiform appendix	Numbers
1	Retrocaecal	<b>64%</b>
2	Pelvis	30%
3	Preileal	0 %
4	Post ileal	4%
5	Subcaecal	2%
6	Paracolic	0%

( *Shashikala Patel &Anshuman Naik,2016*)