

Suspicion for Pediatric Appendicitis

Exclusion Criteria

More complex workup indicated if considering appendicitis in patients with the following diagnoses. Recommend consulting pediatric surgery.

- Previous appendectomy
- Pregnant
- IBD
- Immunosuppressed
- Known to be malrotated

Labs: CBC with diff, CRP, Urine Dipstick, Urine HCG if indicated, Covid PCR, CMP

Orders: NPO, PIV

RX: IV Acetaminophen, Morphine, Zofran

Hydration: Consider re-hydration if indicated

PAS score

PAS 0-3

Low Risk

1-2.4% chance of appendicitis

Look for
alternative diagnosis

PAS 4-7

Intermediate Risk

Limited RLQ Ultrasound

If female and RLQ is not consistent
with appendicitis, recommend
reflex pelvic US to evaluate ovaries

PAS 8-10

High Risk

78-96% chance of appendicitis

Low Probability Appendicitis

Appy score 1-3

- Appendix visualized/partially visualized
- Appendix < 6mm
- No evidence of appendicolith
- No periappendiceal fat stranding

W/U for alternative
etiology for presentation

Equivocal

Appy score 4

- Appendix not visualized or
partially visualized
- No peritoneal free fluid

Phone Triage with
Pediatric Surgery

High Probability Appendicitis

Appy score 5-6

- Appendix visualized
- Non compressible
- Diameter > 6mm
- Localized tenderness with compression
- Periappendiceal fat inflammation
- Presence of appendicolith

Consult Pediatric Surgery

- 20 ml/kg NS Bolus
- Start Antibiotics
 - Not Ill: Mefoxin (40 mg/kg IV q6hr max 2g)
 - Septic: Zosyn (100 mg/kg IV q6hr max 4g)
 - True PCN Allergy: Cipro (15 mg/kg IV q12hr max 400mg)/Flagyl (30 mg/kg IV q24hr max 1g or 1.5g if > 80kg)

Axial Imaging

- CT abdomen pelvis with PO/IV Contrast
- MRI Abdomen/Pelvis
 - Hours ***
 - Approval by ***
 - Order and Call ***

Conservative watchful waiting

- Serial ED abdominal exam
- Inpatient/ED observation without antibiotics
 - NPO on MIVF
 - Analgesia
 - Repeat CBC 12 hours later
 - Repeat PAS q4hrs
- D/C with instructions to return to UC/ED or PCP if symptoms not resolving within 12-24 hours

PAS SCORE

Signs/Symptoms	Point Value
Nausea/emesis	1
Anorexia	1
Migration of pain to RLQ	1
Low-grade fever ($\geq 38.0^{\circ}\text{C}$)	1
RLQ tenderness on light palpation	2
Cough/percussion/heel tapping tenderness at RLQ	2
Leukocytosis ($>10,000/\text{mm}^3$)	1
Left shift ($>75\%$ neutrophilia)	1
Total	10

Abbreviation: RLQ, right lower quadrant