

Negative appendectomy – An experience at District General Hospital

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Background: Negative appendectomy, where it decreases patient satisfaction and causes unnecessary medical expenses, is also associated with postoperative complications and increased length of hospital stay.

Aims/Objectives: To identify the rate of negative appendectomies at East Surrey Hospital over 18 months’ time from June 2018 to October 2019.

Methods: The data was collected from medical records for all patients admitted in Surgical Assessment Unit with diagnosis of acute appendicitis and had undergone appendectomy during this study period. Data included age, gender, white cell count, CRP and preoperative imaging including abdominal ultrasound and CT scans of abdomen and pelvis, surgical approach both open or laparoscopic appendectomy and results from histological findings of resected appendix was collected from hospital record. Negative appendectomy was defined as nonincidental appendectomy with no inflammatory cells present in the submucosa or muscularis propria in the excised appendix. Exclusion criteria included age less than 6 years, appendectomy performed as part of other procedures like right hemi colectomy, bowel resection or cecostomy and appendicular tumours.

Fig 1: Flow chart of study design



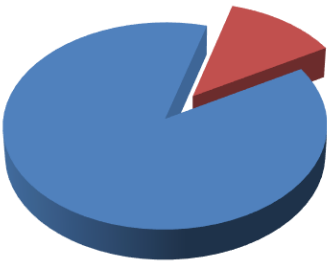
Table 1: Demographic details

Appendectomy	Total	669
	Excluded	58
	Included	611
Histology	Positive	525(85.93%)
	Negative	86(14.07%)
Approach	Laparoscopic	573(93.78%)
	Open	38(6.22%)
Mortality	Lap to Open	0
	0	

Table 2: Characteristics of Negative appendectomy group (N=86)

Characteristics	Age(years)	WCC(1000)	CRP(g/dl)
Mean	28.37	10.53	30.82
Median	27	9.55	6.5
Mode	16	8.5	6.5
Range	9 – 57	4.1 – 34	1 – 256
Standard Deviation	10.7	4.66	53.76
P-value	0.49	0.40	0.0001

Fig 2: Negative Appendectomies



Conclusion:

- Appendectomy is one of the most common emergency surgical procedure at District General Hospital with average of 7.8 procedures per week.
- Rate of negative appendectomies is more than 10% despite availability and wide spread use of blood and imaging investigations.
- Patients having normal appendix histologically tends to have normal CRP.
- Laparoscopic approach is safe and preferred method of performing appendectomy.