

September 2022

Pediatric Appendicitis

A recent 2021 study analyzed data from 5 pediatric centers and 748 children who had 2 ED visits within a 7 day period with the diagnosis of appendicitis made on the second visit (**bouncebacks**).

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8408667/>

The investigators found the following patient characteristics predictive of missed pediatric appendicitis on the first visit:

- **Longer duration of abdominal pain 2-4 days vs less than 24 hours**
- **Abdominal pain not located in RLQ**
- **No pain with walking, no abdominal guarding**
- **PMHx of a complex medical condition**

On the second visit to the ED, patients were much more likely to have traditional appendicitis signs and symptoms which assisted in diagnosis.

Predictably, the cases of missed appendicitis in this study group had higher likelihood of perforation, multiple surgeries, and longer hospitalizations.

Keep in mind that pediatric appendicitis often has atypical symptoms that make it more difficult to diagnose. This study's authors recommended that many of these cases could have been diagnosed on the first visit if a CBC and RLQ ultrasound had been ordered.

The pARC score is a validated decision making tool that can help differentiate the children that need more testing with those that do not.

Our colleagues at Wolfsons ED Downtown are available 24/7 to help with these workups and dispositions.

Pediatric Appendicitis Medmal Bounceback Case



<https://expertwitness.substack.com/p/pediatric-appendicitis-bounceback>

pARC Score For Appendicitis

<https://www.mdcalc.com/calc/10201/pediatric-appendicitis-risk-calculator-parc>

ACEP Appendicitis Clinical Policy

<https://www.acep.org/patient-care/clinical-policies/appendicitis/>

