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1 Clinical Presentation of Patients Diagnosed Post-Operatively with Appendicitis at Private Hospitals in Southern Puerto Rico

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Objective: The goal of our study is to aid in early identification of appendicitis in Hispanics by retrospectively reviewing the initial presentation, physical examination, and laboratory values of patients diagnosed post-operatively with appendicitis.

Method: Data collected from medical records at private hospital emergency departments (EDs) in southern Puerto Rico between 1/1/2000 and 12/31/2005 in post-operative diagnoses of appendicitis included: 1) sex, 2) age, 3) chief complaint, 4) presence/absence of abdominal pain, fever, anorexia, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, constipation and dysuria, 5) clinical findings of pain location, the presence/absence of guarding, rebound tenderness, psoas sign, 6) laboratory and radiological data, and 7) pathology findings. This data was compared with major reference textbooks using the chi squared test and $\alpha=0.05$.

Results: Of 899 subjects this population was found to have significantly less anorexia (26.6%, $p<.001$), nausea (61.7%, $p<.001$), vomiting (50.9%, $p<.001$), and dysuria (4.6%, $p<.001$) than reported in major reference texts. There was a significantly greater frequency of fever (30.5%, $p<.001$), positive psoas sign (29.6%, $p<.001$) and leukocytosis (86%, $p<.001$).

Conclusion: The studied population varied greatly from

commonly accepted literature frequencies for signs and symptoms of appendicitis. An important finding was a decreased frequency of anorexia. Anorexia, frequently considered a major symptom in appendicitis--classically indispensable in its clinical diagnosis--was found in only 26.6% of our sample. Most textbooks describe a frequency of anorexia from 70-100%. The differences found are of great significance for the future evaluation of Hispanic patients with suspected appendicitis. The presence of certain signs and symptoms should raise the suspicion of appendicitis in a patient with abdominal pain; however, their absence, especially anorexia, should not rule out appendicitis. This is especially true in the evaluation of the Hispanic population.

2 Teleradiology Over-read Retrospective Observational Study (TOROS)

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Background: Teleradiology is a system whereby attending-level, fully licensed radiologists interpret radiographic images over the internet, usually from a distant location and at night.

Objectives: To determine the frequency of disagreement on CT interpretations between teleradiologists and hospital-based radiologists; to determine which subtypes of CT studies most frequently have discordant interpretations; to determine if the difference in interpretation is clinically significant to Emergency Department management.

Methods: We performed a retrospective observational study