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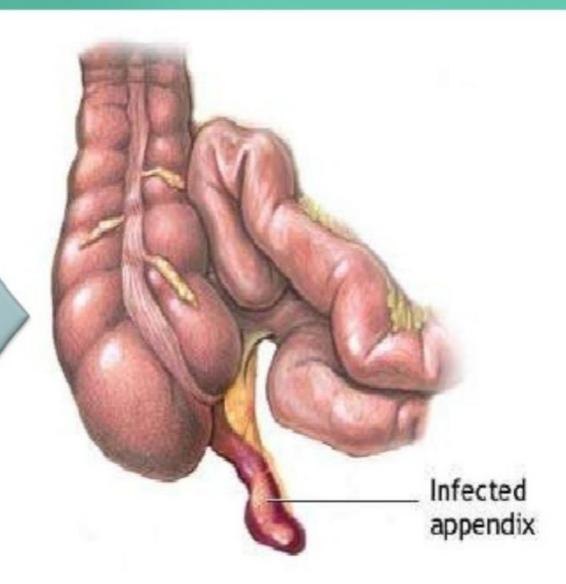
Incidence

- Commonest abdominal surgical emergency.
- One person in six develops appendicitis at some time.
- It is relatively uncommon in developing rural communities.

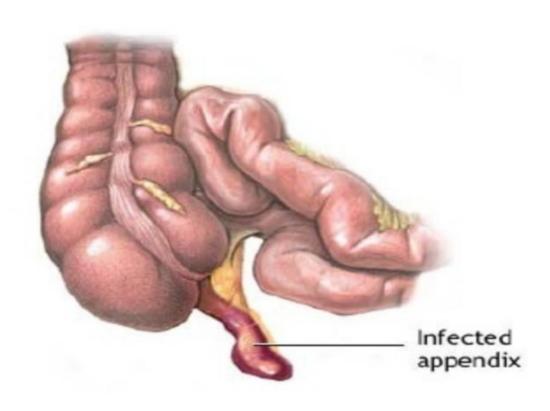
Appendicitis

INFLAMMATION OF APPENDIX IS APPENDICITIS

Generally Caused by an obstruction: Faecalith. Lymphoid obstruction, Infection.

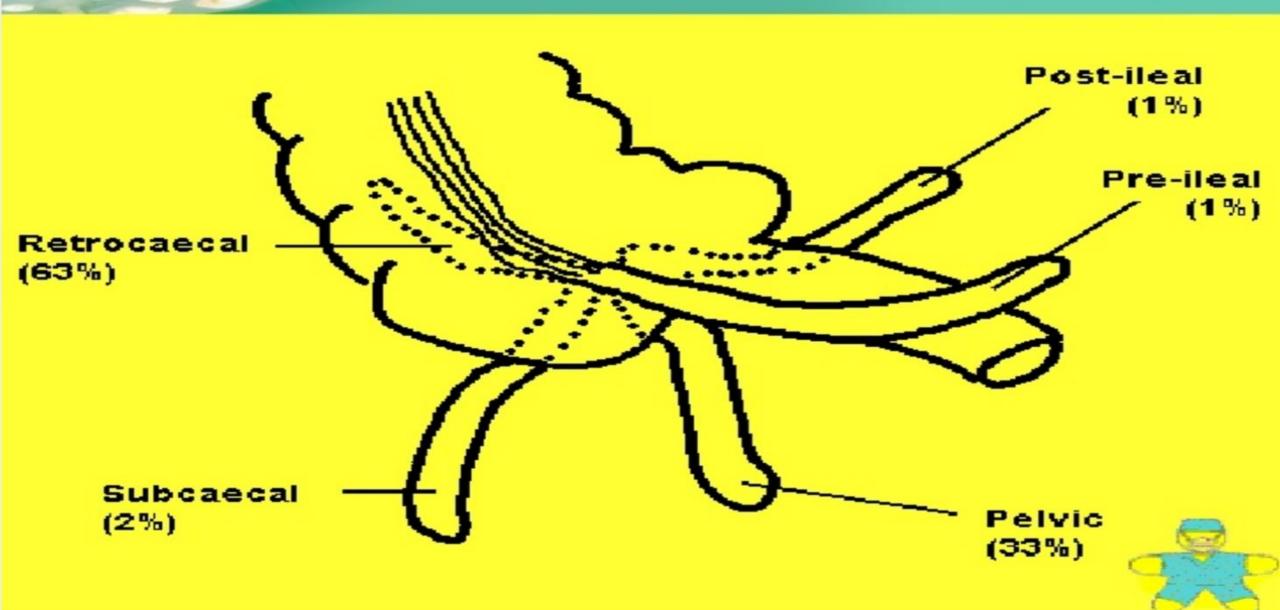


Surgical Anatomy



- The appendix is attached at the point of convergence of the three taeniae coli of the caecum on its posteromedial wall
- The meso-appendix is a peritoneal fold containing fat & appendicular artery
- Commonly behind the caecum (Retrocaecal)
- On psoas muscle at or below pelvic brim (<u>Pelvic</u>)
- Rarely : Pre-ileal Post-ileal Paracaecal
- Length less than 1 to greater than 30cm (most are 6-9 cm in length)
- After age of 60 no lymphoid tissue remains

POSITIONS OF APPENDIX



Surgical Anatomy



Predisposing factors:

- 1- Obstructive agents
- 2- Infective agents

Obstructive agents

Foreign bodies:

- animal (e.g. thread worms ,round worms) ,
- vegetables (e.g. seeds , date stones)
- mineral (faecalith = common cause)
- submucous lymphoid tissue hyperplasia leads to obstruction



Causes

Infective agents:

- Primary infection leading to lymphoid hyperplasia
- Secondary infection caused by pressure of an obstructed agent leads to epithelial erosion and bacteria gain access to the wall
- Both aerobic & anaerobic organisms are involved including (coliforms , enterococci , bacteroids & other intestinal commensals)

- Acute appendicitis is thought to begin with obstruction of the lumen
- Obstruction can result from food matter, adhesions, or lymphoid hyperplasia
- Mucosal secretions continue to increase intra luminal pressure

- Eventually the pressure exceeds capillary perfusion pressure and venous and lymphatic drainage are obstructed.
- With vascular compromise, epithelial mucosa breaks down and bacterial invasion by bowel flora occurs.

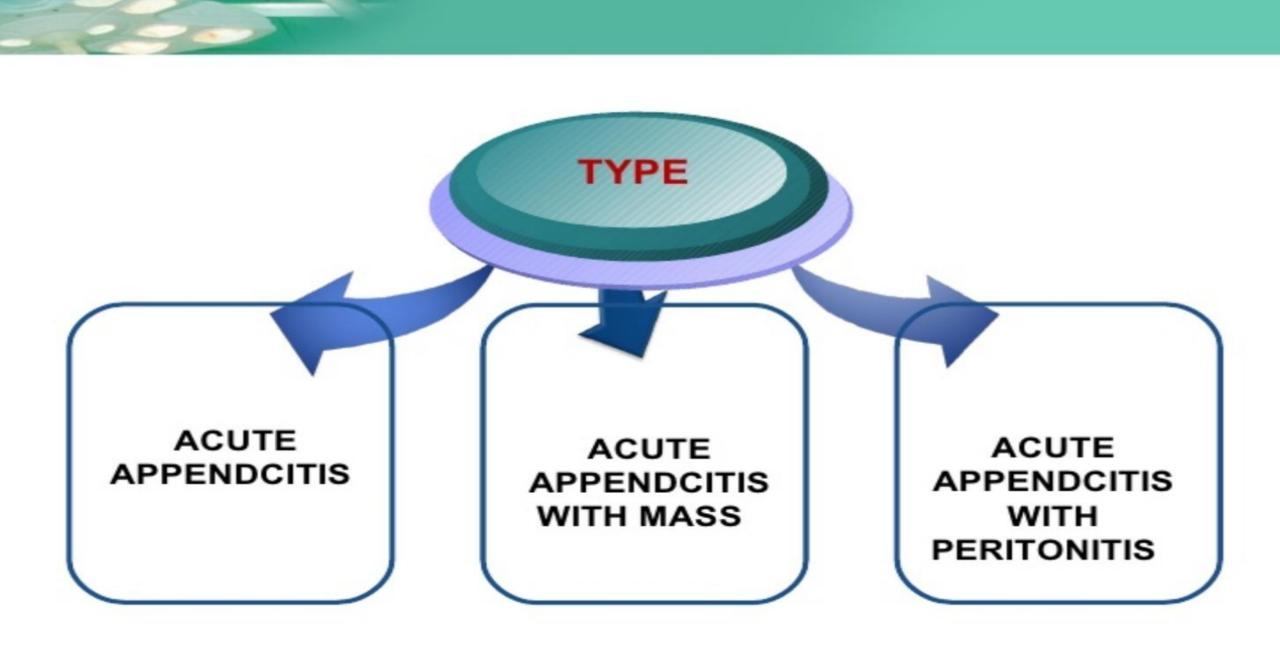
- Increased pressure also leads to arterial stasis and tissue infarction
- End result is perforation and spillage of infected appendiceal contents into the peritoneum

- As inflammation continues, serosa and adjacent structures become inflamed
- This triggers somatic pain fibers, innervating the peritoneal structures. causing pain in the RLQ

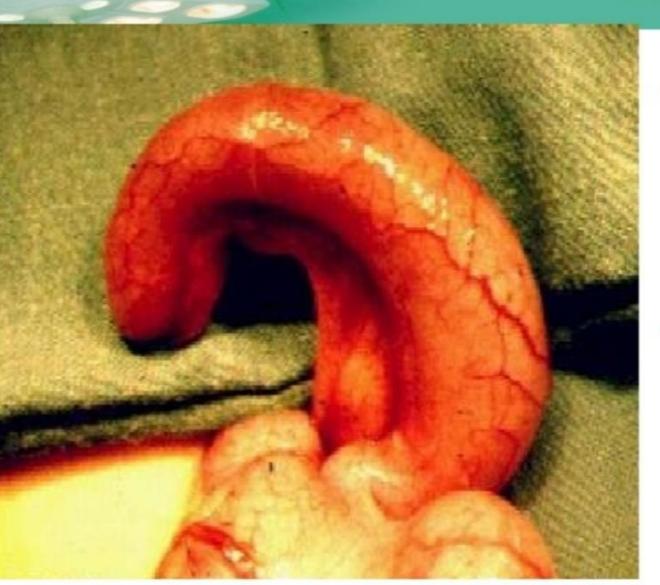
PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

The change in stimulation form visceral to somatic pain fibers explains the classic migration of pain in the peri-umbilical area to the RLQ seen with acute appendicitis.

- Exceptions exist in the classic presentation due to anatomic variability of the appendix
 - Appendix can be retrocecal causing the pain to localize to the right flank
- In pregnancy, the appendix ca be shifted and patients can present with RUQ pain

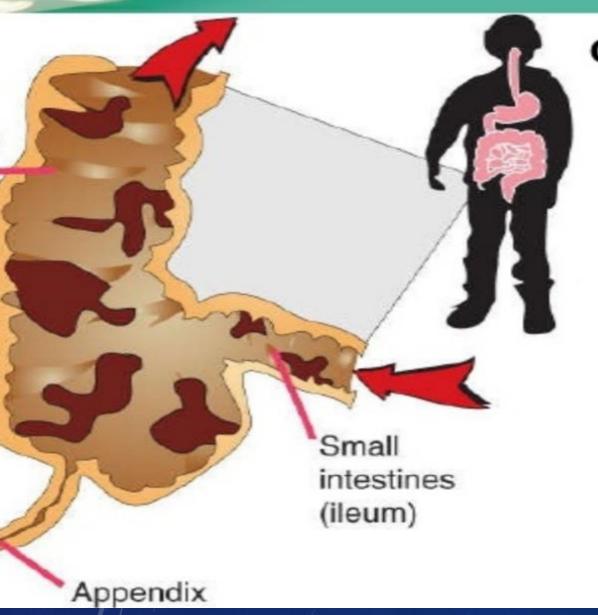






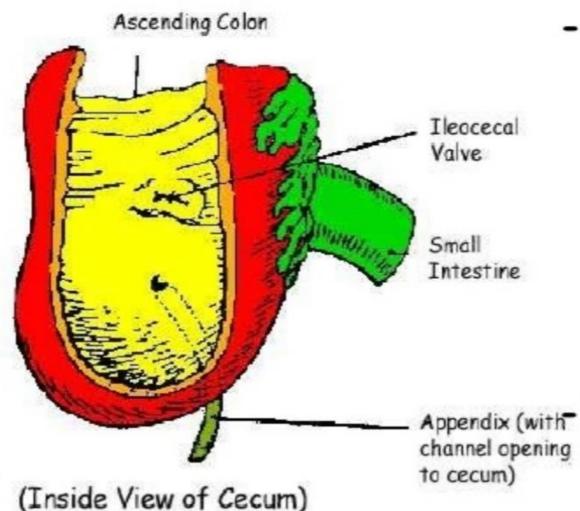
- Organisms enter the wall & lodge in sub mucosa, proliferate, wall becomes red & turgid
- Rate of acceleration of inflammation increase in presence of obstruction to lumen of appendix

Acute appendicitis with mass



Obstruction + infection lead to distension with pus hence increase intraluminal pressure lead to venous occlusion, oedema, arterial occlusion, gangrene and perforation follows, rapidly localised by defence mechanism (greater omentum & coils of bowel). Appendix mass is formed, can undergo suppuration to produce an appendix abscess

Acute appendicitis with peritonitis



 Free perforation following obstruction + infection allows infected material to disperse widely in peritoneal cavity lead to intense peritoneal reaction with outpouring of fluid

Serosal surfaces of bowel become injected flaked with clotted lymph

Clinical Features

Abdominal pain periumblical at first, then to right iliac fossa within a few hours it becomes persistent. Onset is usually sudden, may arise in right iliac fossa and remains there

2 ocaeca

Retrocaecal appendix may cause flank or back pain Pelvic appendix may cause suprapubic pain

3

Anorexia nearly always accompanies appendicitis

Vomiting occurs in about 75% of patients

(most vomit once or twice)

Clinical Features

4)

Most patients
give history of
constipation
before onset of
pain, diarrhea
in some
particularly
children

5

Fever

Low grade

Around 100 degee F

Oc. Haematuria

6

Murphy's Triad

Pain

Vomiting

Fever

LOCAL SIGNS

Tenderness of a localised & persistent nature is the most important abdominal finding, situated at RIF, classically at McBurney's point (junction of middle & outer third of a line from umbilicus to anterior superior iliac spine

Rigidity over RIF

Rebound tenderness (best elicited by percussion)

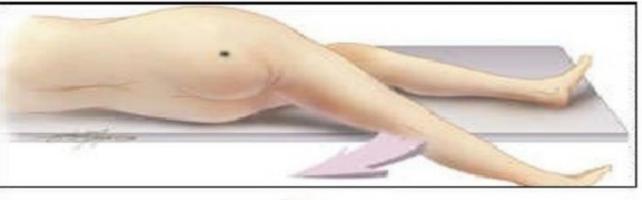
Tenderness on right side during rectal examination (may be only sign with pelvic appendicitis)

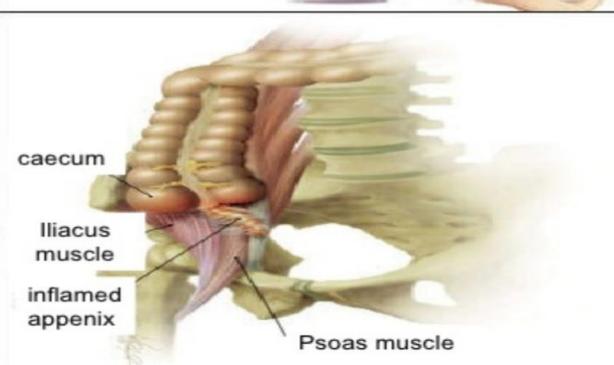
ROVSING'S SIGN



Continuous deep palpation starting from the left iliac fossa upwards (anti clockwise along the colon) may cause pain in the right iliac fossa, by pushing bowel contents towards the ileocaecal valve and thus increasing pressure around the appendix. This is the Rovsing's sign.

PSOA'S SIGN

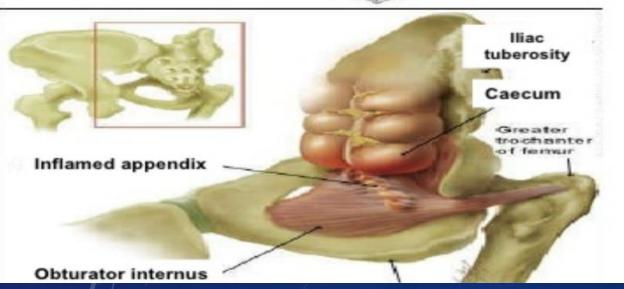




Psoas sign is right lowerquadrant pain that is produced with the patient extending the hip due to inflammation of the peritoneum overlying the psoas muscles and inflammation of the psoas muscles themselves. Straightening out the leg causes the pain because it stretches the muscles, and flexing the hip into the "fetal position" relieves the pain.

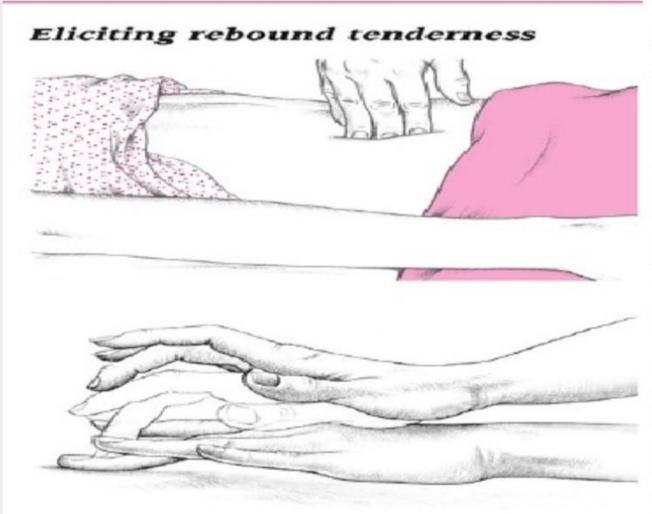
OBTURATOR'S SIGN





The obturator sign. Pain on passive internal rotation of the flexed thigh. Examiner moves lower leg laterally while applying resistance to the lateral side of the knee (asterisk) resulting in internal rotation of the femur...

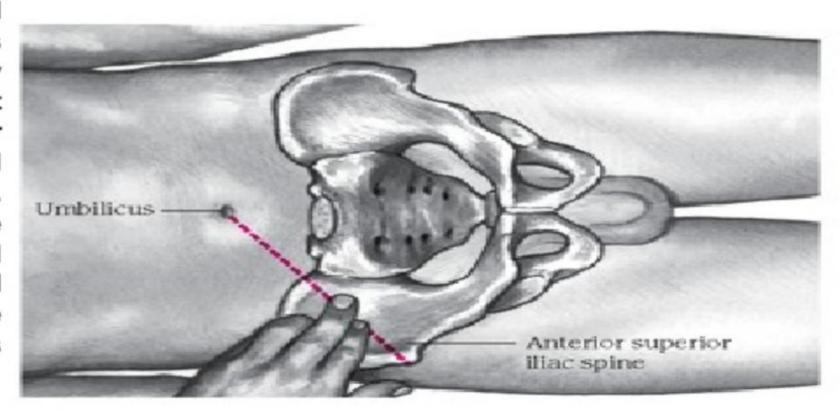
BLOOMBERG'S SIGN



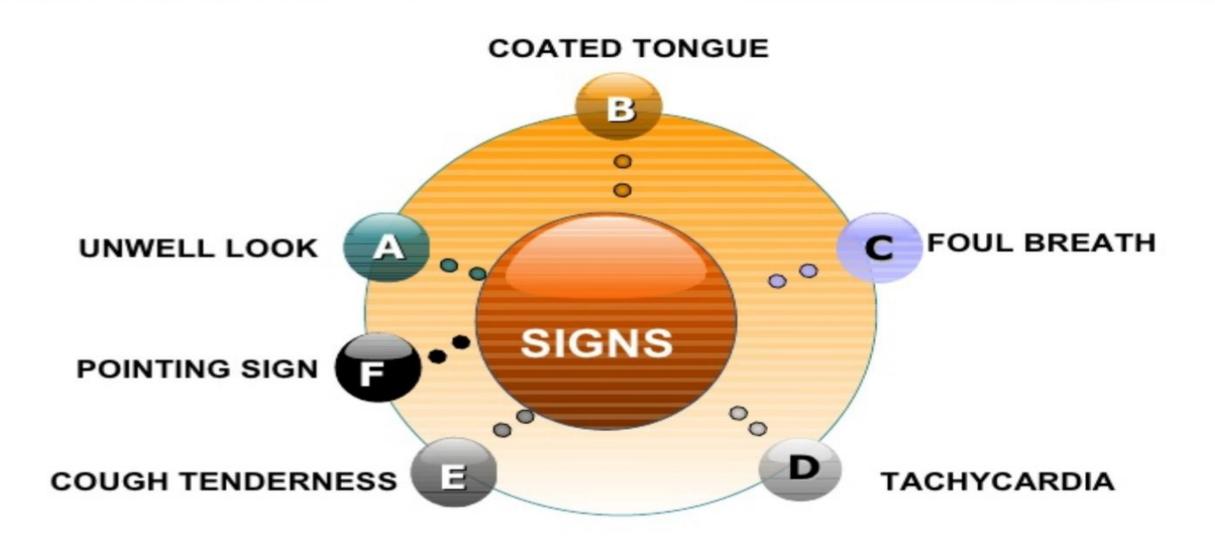
Also referred as rebound tenderness. Deep palpation of the viscera over the suspected inflamed appendix followed by sudden release of the pressure causes the severe pain on the site indicating positive Blumberg's sign and peritonitis

MCBURNEY'S SIGN

To elicit Mcburney's sign patient should be in supine position with his knees slightly flexed and his abdominal muscles relaxed. Palpate deeply and slowly in the right lower quadrant over McBurney's point located about 2" from the Rt. Ant. Sup. Iliac Spine. On a line between the spine and umbilicus. Point pain and tenderness is a positive sign and indicates appendicitis.



Clinical Features



Alvarado Score

Anorexia

Above 8-9: Sure

Below 5: negative

5-8: investigate

Rt Iliac Fossa Pain

Nausea and Vomiting

Rt Iliac Fossa Tender (2)

Fever

Rebound Tenderness

Leucocytosis (2)

Shift to left

Differential Diagnosis

Eterocolitis Ileo caecal TB

Ca Caecum

Perforated P.U.

Empyema GB

Crohn's disease

Rt Lobar Pneumonia

Worm Ball



Pancreatitis

Liver and GB inflamm

Renal Mass

Ovarian cyst

Fibroid uterus

Ureteric calculus

Ectopic gestation

Oophoritis

Differential Diagnosis

CHILD

Gastroenteritis, Mesenteric adenitis, Meckel's diverticulum, Intussception

ADULT

Regional enteritis, Ureteric Colic, Perforated P.U., Torsion of Testis, Pancreatitis

FEMALE

Pelvic Inflammatory Diseases, Pyelonephritis, Ectopic Pregnancy, Ovarian Cyst, Endometriosis, uterine fibroids.

OLD

Diverticulitis, intestinal obstruction, carcinoma colon etc.