

Response to “imaging to diagnose acute appendicitis”

Access this article online	
Quick Response Code:	Website: www.afripaedurg.org
	DOI: 10.4103/0189-6725.129255

Sir,

In response to comment of Wiwanitkit^[1] on our study on efficacy of ultrasound scan to diagnose acute appendicitis in children,^[2] we confirm that imaging is cost and time demanding and that most of the time it is not worth to be used to diagnose appendicitis. This is exactly what we remarked in our study. We are in fact absolutely in favour of the clinical assessment as the key mean of diagnosis and against the abuse of imaging: indeed, 82.4% of our patients underwent appendectomy without any further diagnostic assessment. Nevertheless, in selected cases, as the girls older than 10 years, if the story and clinical examination is doubtful, it would be advisable to use

ultrasound to improve the accuracy of the diagnosis, being these selected subgroups of patients keen to be more difficult to diagnose due to gynaecological problems. This is to avoid the high number of negative surgical procedures we reported in our series.

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