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Ultrasound more accurate than laboratory tests in diagnostics of acute appendicitis in children

ZAGREB – Ultrasound proved to be more accurate method than laboratory tests in determining the acute appendicitis in children, showed a study published in the new issue of Croatian Medical Journal.

Researchers from the Ljubljana University Medical Center compared the accuracy of different methods in establishing the diagnosis in 82 children which came to hospital with a clinical suspicion of acute appendicitis. Besides clinical and ultrasound examination, white blood cell count and differential and serum concentrations of C-reactive protein and interleukin-6 (IL-6) were measured in all patients.

Ultrasound examination was most accurate diagnostic method (the true diagnosis was established in 93% of cases), whereas less accurate were serum concentration of IL-6 (78%), clinical signs (70%), white blood cells count (68%) and serum concentration of C-reactive protein (64%). Ultrasound was most specific, but clinical signs were most sensitive of all diagnostic methods.

In conclusion, the authors suggest that the ultrasound examination should be made a part of the regular diagnostic procedure for acute appendicitis in children.

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