



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

General Surgery

SEED IN APPENDICULAR LUMEN CAUSING APPENDICULAR PERFORATION - A CASE REPORT.

KEY WORDS:

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Clinical Presentation:

A 24 year old male presented with acute onset pain in the right low abdomen pain with fever and vomiting.on examination patient was conscious,oriented with tachycardia(HR-108/min) and blood pressure of 108/76 mm Hg.on palpation of abdomen there was tenderness in the Mcburny's point with localised guarding in the right iliac fossa and hypogastrium. straight X-ray abdomen erect posture showed an opaque shadow in the region of right iliac fossa. Clinical diagnosis of acute appendicitis with ?perforation was made and proceeded for surgery after initial stabilisation.



Operative Findings:

1. Pyoperitoneum.
2. Appendicular perforation with gangrenous changes.
3. A seed of 2.5cm×1cm in appendicular lumen causing appendicitis.



DISCUSSION:

Acute appendicitis observed in almost 7% of population is an acute illness of the *Appendix vermiformis* being the most surgical emergency.The obstruction of appendix lumen is the main cause of appendicitis. Basically fecalith, lymphoid hyperplasia, seeds of fruits and vegetables, barium obturator, and tumors of large intestine and appendix can be found as etiology of acute appendicitis.

95% of the substances which are taken orally but not digested pass through the digestive system however more heavier substances locate in the lower part of cecum and can easily enter appendix lumen. Due to lack of peristaltic activity of appendix the accumulated foreign bodies can lead to obstruction of the lumen,hence inflammation. The foreign bodies listed in literature-metal needles, animals meat bones, tooth stick, tooth fills, as well as fruit seeds. Some of the fruit seeds swallowed are removed from the body naturally, while some of them can be the cause of appendicitis. There are reported cases of appendicitis which are caused by seeds of vegetables and fruits such as cacao, orange, melon, barley, oat,fig,grape,date,cumin,and nut.

In the series which **Byard and his colleagues** published in 1988, it was reported that among 1 409 appendectomy materials, fruit seed was observed only in one of the cases(1/1 409, 0.07%) (Byard RW, Manton ND, Burnell RH. Acute appendicitis in childhood: did mother know best? A pathological analysis of 1 409 cases.MJA 1998;169:647-648).

In one study, fruit seed was found in 1 among 1 969 appendectomy materials (1/1 969,0.05%).34 fruit seed cases were reported by others (**Balch CM, Silver D.** Foreign bodies in the appendix.AMA Arch Surg 1971;102:14-20).

Since the fruit seeds in appendix are very rare, relevant publications are generally submitted to literature as case reports.