

27-year-old female who recently
underwent a cesarean section
presenting with RLQ abdominal
pain

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CT abdomen and pelvis with IV contrast (coronal)



A large, stylized oak leaf graphic in a dark blue color, positioned on the left side of the slide. The leaf has a prominent central vein and several smaller veins branching off it. The leaf's edge is serrated.

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Acute Appendicitis

CT abdomen and pelvis with IV contrast (coronal)



Peri-appendiceal fat stranding

Distended appendix with wall thickening and hyperemia

Acute Appendicitis

Acute appendicitis is acute inflammation of the vermiform appendix, usually presenting as referred periumbilical pain that localizes to McBurney's point as the condition progresses. Possible symptoms include nausea, vomiting, fever, tachycardia, and elevated inflammatory markers. If untreated, it can progress to abscess formation, perforation, or gangrene.

Epidemiology/Pathology

- Lifetime incidence is ~7%
- Frequently caused by obstruction of the appendiceal lumen
- Older adults have higher incidence of perforation

Differential diagnoses

- Nephrolithiasis
- Right-sided diverticulitis
- Meckel diverticulitis
- Ectopic pregnancy
- Appendiceal malignancy
- Crohn's disease

Imaging Findings

CT abdomen and pelvis with IV contrast

- Increased appendiceal diameter >6 mm
- Appendiceal wall thickening >2 mm and hyperemia
- Peri-appendiceal fat stranding
- May see proximal obstruction (i.e. appendicolith, mucocele, malignancy, etc)

References

- https://www.uptodate.com/contents/acute-appendicitis-in-adults-clinical-manifestations-and-differential-diagnosis?search=acute%20appendicitis%20adult&source=search_result&selectedTitle=2%7E150&usage_type=default&display_rank=2#H5347877
- https://www.uptodate.com/contents/image?imageKey=RADIOL/83460&topicKey=SURG%2F96169&search=acute%20appendicitis%20adult&source=outline_link&selectedTitle=3%7E150
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