Imaging to diagnose acute appendicitis

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Sir,

The recent report on imaging to diagnose acute appendicitis is very interesting.[1] Cesare *et al*. concluded that "in girls older than 10 years, selected use of imaging should be implemented to avoid unnecessary appendectomies" and "imaging of choice in equivocal cases should be ultrasonography."[1] In fact, the clinical diagnosis of acute appendicitis in paediatric patients is usually a challenge. There are several attempts to develop the diagnostic tool to help accurate diagnosis. In the present report, it seems that the use of imaging technique can support the diagnosis. However, there are many concerns. First, the cost-effectiveness of using additional imaging investigation should be accessed. This might be a problem in the resource-limited setting. Schreiner *et al*. mentioned that using imaging investigation "causes more costs in the public health system."[2] Schreiner *et al*. noted that ultrasonography had poor diagnosis property and also concluded that computed tomography scans was good concerning its diagnostic property, but "are expensive and involve exposure to radiation for the patient."[2] Second, the reported usefulness of imaging is varied. This might be due to the setting, number of subjects in each study and experience of the imaging interpreter. Acheson and Banerjee pointed the imaging was still controversial for usefulness for management of suspected appendicitis in children[3].

Viroj Wiwanitkit[1,2,3]

[1]Hainan Medical University, Hainan, China,
[2]Faculty of Medicine, University of Nis, Nis, Serbia,
[3]Joseph Ayobabalola University, Ikeji-Arakeji, Osun State, Nigeria

Address for correspondence: Prof. Viroj Wiwanitkit, Wiwanitkit House, Banghae, Bangkok, Thailand.
E-mail: wviroj@yahoo.com

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