

Original Article

Socio-demographic and clinical characteristics of the appendicitis patients

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Abstract

Objective: The aim of the present study was to investigate the Socio-demographic and clinical characteristics of the appendicitis patients at a tertiary level teaching hospital in Dhaka.

Methods: It was cross sectional study, conducted in the Dhaka National Medical College Hospital, Dhaka, during the study period of July 2015 to December 2015. The study was approved by the institutional ethical committee.

Results: Most of the appendicitis patients belonged to the between 21-30 years which was 64 (32%). Male appendicitis patients (52%) are more than the female patients (48%). Most of the patients were non-smoker (79%). The common symptoms of the patients other than pain were nausea and vomiting (62%). Majority of the patients (56%) duration of symptoms was > 48 hours. Majority of the patients (69%) complains pain occurs in the Right iliac fossa. The nature of the pain was dull aching 54% and 46% were colicky.

Conclusion: In our study most of the appendicitis patients belonged to the younger age group. Male patients are more than the female patients. Most of the patients hospitalized with the typical feature of appendicitis like pain in the right iliac fossa with nausea and vomiting

Keywords: Acute appendicitis, Demographic study.

Introduction:

Acute appendicitis is the most common cause of 'Acute Abdomen' in young adults. The preoperative accurate diagnosis of acute appendicitis remains an enigmatic challenge for surgeons. As about 22-23% patient do not present with typical sign and symptoms.¹ These atypical presentations of appendicitis can cause complication which is about 17-39%.² To prevent these complications early clinical diagnosis is essential. Though advancement in modern radiographic imaging and laboratory investigation the diagnosis of acute appendicitis remain essentially clinical.³ Multiple scoring system have been developed for the diagnosis of acute appendicitis among which the Alvarado and the modified Alvarado score are the two most commonly used scoring system.⁴ Appendectomy is the treatment of choice and it is the most frequently performed urgent abdominal surgery and is often the first major procedure performed by a surgeon in training.⁵

Materials and methods:

It was cross sectional study, conducted in the Dhaka National Medical College Hospital, Dhaka, during the study period of July 2015 to December 2015. The study was approved by the institutional ethical committee. To evaluate the socio-demographic and clinical characteristics of the appendicitis patients, a data collection sheet was prepared. The data collection sheet

contains details such as demographics, diagnosis, symptom and duration of symptoms of the appendicitis patients. Total 200 case records were studied during the study period. The data was obtained from the hospitalized patients. All filled questionnaires were entered into the computer for subsequent analysis using SPSS method version 20.1.

Results:

Table 1 shows mean age of the patients were 35.83(±12.30) years, minimum age was 18 years and maximum age was 57 years. Maximum age group was between 21-30 years which was 64 (32%).

Table-1: Age group distribution of the study population (n=200)

Age	Number	Percentage
< 20 yrs	16	8%
21-30 yrs	64	32%
31-40 yrs	48	24%
41-50 yrs	30	15%
> 50 yrs	42	21%
Total	200	100%
Mean±SD	35.83(±12.30)	Range 18-57 years

According to figure 1, More than half (52%) were male patients and 48% were female patients. male and female ratio was 1.08:1.

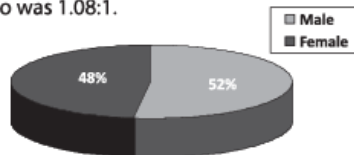


Figure-1: Sex distribution of the study population

According to the table 2, 42 patients (21%) were smoker and 158 patients (79%) non smoker.

Table-II: Smoking status of the study population (n=200)

Smoking Status	Number	Percentage
Smoker	42	21%
Non smoker	158	79%
Total	200	100%

According to table 3, presenting complains of the patients other than pain 124 (62%) were nausea & vomiting, 47(23.4%) were fever and 112(56%) were anorexia.

Table-III: Presenting Complains (other than pain) of the patients (n=200)

Presenting complains	Number	Percentage
Nausea & vomiting	124	62%
Fever	47	23.5%
Anorexia	112	56%

• Patients may complain more than one symptoms

According to table 4, duration of symptoms (56%) was > 48 hours and 44% were < 48 hours.

Table-IV: Duration of symptoms of the study population (n=200)

Duration of symptoms	Number	Percentage
<48 hours	88	44%
>48 hours	112	56%
Total	200	100%

According to table 5, site of pain 29(14.5%) were peri-umbilical region, 138(69%) were Right iliac fossa pain and 33(16.5%) were other place.

Table-V: Site of pain of the study population (n=200)

Site of pain	Number	Percentage
Peri umbilical region	29	14.5%
Right iliac fossa	138	69%
Other place	33	16.5%
Total	200	100%

According to table 6, nature of pain majority 108 (54%) were dull aching and 92(46%) were colicky.

Table-VI: Nature of pain of the study population (n=200)

Nature	Number	Percentage
Colicky	92	46%
Dull aching	108	54%
Total	200	100%

Discussion:

In this present study showed mean age was 35.83(\pm 12.30) years, minimum age was 18 years and maximum age was 57 years. Maximum age group was between 21-30 years which was 64(32%). Majority 52% were male and 48% were female, male: female ratio was 1.08:1. In study of Chong et al.⁶ showed the mean age of the patients (92 male, 100 female) was 25.1 \pm 12.7 years. In Ismail Alnjadat I, Baha Abdallah study⁷ male to female ratio was 1.5:1 and mean age was 26.52 years. In our study most of the patients (54%) nature of pain was dull aching but DJ Humes and J simpson in his article stated that most of the appendicitis patients nature of pain was colicky.⁸ In our study most of the pain occurs in right iliac fossa (69%). Our study results are similar to the Nshuti et al.⁹ study but the percentage is not same. In their study they stated that most of the pain occurs in right iliac fossa (95%). In our study most of the patients (56%) duration of symptoms was > 48 hours. This result is not correlate with the result of Nshuti et al.⁹ (2014) study. In their study they reported that the duration of symptoms was 4.5 days (SD = 4 days).

Conclusion:

Acute appendicitis is very common in surgery department of Dhaka National Medical College and Hospital. Early diagnosis is a primary goal to prevent morbidity, mortality and decreasing the negative appendectomy rate.

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