



Pinworms (*Enterobius vermicularis*) mimicking acute appendicitis

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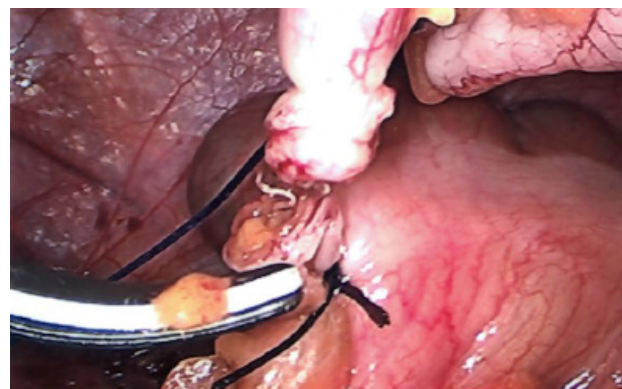
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Clinical image description

Pinworm at base of appendix from a 14-year-old boy admitted with abdominal pain for presumed appendicitis. Pinworms are a parasite of the roundworm family *Enterobius vermicularis* (EV) and are the most common worm in the UK. Up to 40% of school children will suffer with this parasite infection at some time in their lives [1].

Enterobius vermicularis was found in 3.8% of 287 paediatric emergency appendectomies in a large UK paediatric hospital in 2018 [2]. In these patients surgery is associated with unnecessary risk and potential morbidity, but the opportunity cost of operating must also be considered.

Awareness of EV, in combination with a few additional and simple investigations, could help reduce misdiagnosis in this patient group and mitigate both the risks and cost of avoidable surgery.



References

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2. Sivasankar Jayakumar, et al. "Enterobius vermicularis Infestation Presenting as Acute Appendicitis in Children." *EC Paediatrics* 7.7 (208): 585-589.

