

Quadrant Specific Diagnostic Evaluation of Acute Abdomen

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Abstract

Facing with a patient with acute abdominal pain is really challenging not only because these cases are so common, but also the presentation of patient conditions range from benign to life-threatening. So it is very important to note a careful history, to make a good physical examination, to require the appropriate laboratory testing and to choose the proper diagnostic imaging in order to create a differential diagnosis. The sensitivity and specificity of diagnostic imaging procedures is different in different diagnosis. The American College of Radiology has developed clinical guidelines, based on the location of the abdominal pain to choose the most appropriate imaging study. This paper will be focused on diagnostic approach in quadrant specific abdominal pain. Ultrasonography is the

initial imaging test of choice for patients presenting with right upper quadrant pain. The same for children, gynecological pathologies and pregnant patients. While magnetic resonance imaging that avoids ionizing radiation is especially useful in pregnant patients. Computed tomography (CT) is recommended for evaluating almost all other suspected diagnosis. Conventional radiography has limited diagnostic value in the assessment of most patients with abdominal pain. Using CT (computed tomography) scans should concern doctors about patient exposure to ionizing radiation.

Keywords: Acute abdomen, CT, diagnostic approach.