

### 341 The Diagnosis and Management of Appendicitis During the COVID-19 Pandemic: The Pennine Acute Trust Experience

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**Introduction:** Appendicitis management has evolved recently with more reliance on Computed Topography (CT) and laparoscopic surgery being commonplace. In this project we looked at how the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) had impacted the diagnosis, management and outcomes of patients with appendicitis in our unit.

**Method:** A retrospective review of patients diagnosed with appendicitis from 1<sup>st</sup> March – 30<sup>th</sup> April in 2019 and 2020. Data was collected on diagnosis, management and outcomes.

**Results:** In 2020, 91 patients were identified (mean 33, range 6-85, F:M 1:1.4). In 2019, 107 patients were identified (mean 32, range 7-69, M:F 1:1.1). There was no significant difference in patients' symptom duration ( $p=0.21$ ), White Cell Count ( $p=0.20$ ) or C-Reactive Protein ( $p=0.10$ ). More CTs were performed in 2020 (56/91, 61.5%) than in 2019 (40/107, 37.4%). Less patients underwent appendicectomy in 2020 (75/91, 82.4%) than in 2019 (104/107, 97.2%). Open appendicectomies were performed in 64% (48/75) of those operated in 2020 compared with 12.2% (13/104) in 2019. There was no difference in hospital length of stay or re-admissions rates.

**Conclusions:** The diagnosis and management of appendicitis changed considerably at our trust during COVID-19 with more reliance on CT diagnosis and less use of laparoscopy. Despite this, outcomes remained unchanged.