

Mega appendix: One of the Longest Appendix Discovered within Appendicular Lump

Rajkumar¹, Sharma Neeraj², Umair. M³, Lal Ravi⁴

¹Assistant Professor, ²⁻⁴Junior Resident, Department of Surgery, MLN Medical College, Allahabad, U. P., India

*Corresponding Author:

Name: Dr. Neeraj Sharma

Email: neeraj8005479284@gmail.com

Abstract: The vermiform appendix is an organ connected to caecum at the convergence of the three taeniae of the colon, varies widely in its location, size and function. The normal length of appendix varies from 6-8 cm. various pathologies are related to appendix like acute appendicitis, appendicular lump, and appendicular abscess. We here report the largest appendix removed measuring about ten 25 cm (10 inches) in length from a patient who presented with a diagnosis of appendicular lump. The patient was operated in emergency surgery department. The patient is fit postoperatively.

Keywords: longest, Appendix, Appendicular lump, 25 cm.

INTRODUCTION

The vermiform appendix is a blind end organ considered vestigial in human beings that varies mostly in its location, size & as well as in their pathological features.

Acute appendicitis is the most common general surgical emergency. Early surgical intervention improves outcomes [1].

We here report one of one of the largest appendix removed measuring 25 cm (10 inches) in length. 0.5 cm in diameter.

CASE REPORT

A 35yr old male presented to emergency in department of surgery with history of pain in right iliac fossa since 12 days, associated with on and off fever of high grade, vomiting and not passing faeces & flatus since 3 days. On examination patient was conscious, pale and hemodynamically stable. An ill-defined mass was palpable in right iliac fossa, which was not mobile, firm in consistency and tender. Skin of the abdomen was normal and no other swelling was appreciated. Ultrasonography of whole abdomen was done which showed signs of appendicular perforation. Routine Haematological investigation showed White Blood Cell count of 18,000/mm³. On laparotomy minimal free fluid was seen in right iliac fossa & the terminal ileum and caecum were apparently normal, with appendix disappearing beneath a firm mass of size 6*6 cm. The mass was opened and frank pus approximately 200 ml in volume was drained. The base of appendix was caught hold with Babcock forceps & whole of the appendix was dissected out which was

coiled up and on straightening it measured about 10 inches in length and in retro colic position. Histopathological examination of the removed specimen confirmed inflamed appendicular tissue. Postoperative period was uneventful.



Fig. 1: Retrocaecal appendix dissected out of the lump



Fig. 2: Terminal ileum, caecum and appendix



Fig. 3: Resected appendix

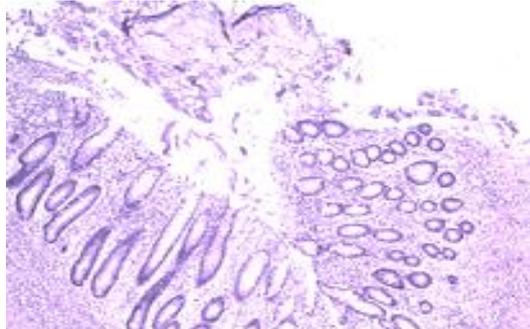


Fig. 4: Histopathology slide of resected specimen

DISCUSSION

Vermiform appendix varies widely in its size, location and pathology in individuals. In human beings length of appendix varies from 8-10cm [2], longer in males than females [3]. The longest appendixes reported measures 26cm (10.24inches) removed at autopsy from 72 year old man (guinness2007) [4]. The base of the appendix is consistently found by following the taeniae coli of colon to their confluence at the base of caecum [5]. Thought to be a vestigial organ, the appendix is now known to have some immunologic function, especially with secretion of immunoglobulin-A, a mucosal surface antibody [6].

The pathophysiology of acute appendicitis is related to luminal obstruction [7, 8]; faecoliths are the most common cause of luminal obstruction present in majority of the cases [9, 10]. The clinical spectrum of appendicitis begin with simple (uncomplicated) appendicitis progressing toward suppurative and phlegmonous appendicitis and finally to perforated (or ruptured) appendicitis with eventual abscess formation.

Perforation typically occurs after at least 48 hours from onset of symptoms. It is accompanied by an abscess cavity walled off by the small intestine and the omentum [11, 12].

The definitive treatment of appendicitis is appendectomy, open or laparoscopy [13, 14]. Patients with perforated appendix may be very ill and require several hours of fluid resuscitation before safe induction of general anaesthesia can be achieved.

CONCLUSION

In our case, we removed appendix of approximately 10 inches (25cm) size which was three times the normal length, making it one of the largest appendix removed to date.

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