



Emergency Department Evaluation Guideline for Suspected Appendicitis

- ☐ Clinical exam
- ☐ CBC c Diff
- ☐ BMP
- ☐ UA
- ☐ HCG

Alvarado score ¹

Alvarado Score for Appendicitis

Migratory R iliac fossa pain	1
Nausea / Vomiting	1
Anorexia	1
Tenderness in R iliac fossa	2
Rebound tenderness in R iliac fossa	1
Elevated temperature	1
Leukocytosis	2
Left shift	1

Total 10

Option 1: OR if young/healthy and Alvarado Score ≥ 7

Option 2: Imaging studies

A. CT if ultrasound is non-diagnostic

B. MRI in pregnant patient

- If imaging is consistent with appendicitis follow appropriate appendicitis pathway
- If imaging is non-diagnostic but clinical suspicion of appendicitis exists, consider admission for serial exams
- If imaging is diagnostic for other pathology, treat as indicated and contact the appropriate consult service

Age ≤ 40 , non-obese

Ultrasound abdomen and pelvis

Positive

Surgery Consult

Not seen

Surgery Consult

Age > 40 , obese

CT abdomen and pelvis

Normal

Medicine Consult

¹ Alvarado, A. A practical score for the early diagnosis of acute appendicitis. Ann Emerg Med. 1986