

Resource use greater for more severe pediatric appendicitis

August 8 2018



(HealthDay)—More severe presentations of complicated appendicitis

are associated with worse outcomes and greater resource use among pediatric patients, according to a study published online July 25 in *JAMA Surgery*.

Seema P. Anandalwar, M.D., from the Boston Children's Hospital, and colleagues evaluated clinical data from the American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program pediatric appendectomy pilot database (1,333 children) and cost data from the Pediatric Health Information System. The authors sought to examine the association of intraoperative findings of disease severity with complication rates and resource use in children with complicated appendicitis.

The researchers found that multiple intraoperative findings of complicated [appendicitis](#) were reported in 44.2 percent of cases. Compared with single findings, the presence of multiple findings was associated with higher rates of surgical site infection (odds ratio, 1.40; 95 percent confidence interval [CI], 0.95 to 2.06; P = 0.09), higher revisit rates (odds ratio, 1.60; 95 percent CI, 1.15 to 2.21; P = 0.005), longer length of stay (rate ratio, 1.45; 95 percent CI, 1.36 to 1.55; P

"Severity adjustment may be needed to ensure fair reimbursement and comparative performance reporting, particularly at hospitals treating underserved populations where more severe presentations are common," the authors write.

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Citation: Resource use greater for more severe pediatric appendicitis (2018, August 8) retrieved 2 May 2024 from

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