

Hospital costs higher for Black children undergoing appendectomy

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(HealthDay)—Black children undergoing appendectomy have more

surgical complications and incur higher hospital costs, according to a study published online Sept. 16 in *Pediatrics*.

Christian Mpody, M.D., Ph.D., from the Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, and colleagues conducted a retrospective analysis of data from the Nationwide Inpatient Sample between 2001 and 2018 for children younger than 18 years who were admitted with appendicitis and underwent an appendectomy during their [hospital stay](#). The inflation-adjusted hospital costs attributable to racial disparities in surgical complications and perforation status were examined. Data were included for 100,639 children who underwent appendectomy: 89.9 and 10.1 percent were non-Hispanic White and non-Hispanic Black, respectively.

The researchers found that surgical complications were consistently higher for Black versus White children, irrespective of perforation status at presentation; over time, there was no evidence of narrowing of the racial gap. Incurred hospital costs were consistently higher for Black children (median difference, \$629). For Black children, the total inflation-adjusted hospital costs were \$518,658,984; 11.41 percent represented the excess due to racial differences in perforation rates.

"We identified a long-standing disparity that requires sustained commitment to reducing the excess risk of [surgical complications](#) in Black children that is not only morally but also economically the expedient thing to do," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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