

Risk score may help in the care of patients with suspected appendicitis

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A new study indicates that a classification system based on patient symptoms and basic lab tests can reduce the need for diagnostic imaging, hospital admissions, and surgery in patients with suspected appendicitis.

The system is based on the Appendicitis Inflammatory Response (AIR) score, which includes the following parameters: pain in right iliac fossa, history of vomiting, rebound tenderness or muscular guarding, body temperature, white [blood cell count](#), proportion of neutrophil granulocytes, and C-reactive protein concentration.

The *British Journal of Surgery* study included 1068 patients presenting with suspicion of appendicitis who were randomized to routine diagnostic imaging or in-hospital observation with selective [diagnostic imaging](#) after repeat AIR-scoring.

More information: M. Andersson et al, Randomized clinical trial of Appendicitis Inflammatory Response score-based management of patients with suspected appendicitis, *British Journal of Surgery* (2017). [DOI: 10.1002/bjs.10637](https://doi.org/10.1002/bjs.10637)

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