Stump appendicitis

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An 8-year-old boy presented 2 months after laparoscopic appendectomy with multiple episodes of right lower quadrant pain. A contrast-enhanced CT scan showed pericecal fat stranding (Fig. 1, asterisk) and tubular wall thickening (Fig. 1, arrows). A contrast-enhanced CT scan 3 months later showed more pronounced tubular wall thickening (Fig. 2, arrows) adjacent to an appendectomy clip (Fig. 2, arrowhead). Exploratory laparoscopy and histology revealed stump appendicitis.

Fig. 1 Axial contrast-enhanced CT image obtained 2 months after initial appendectomy

Fig. 2 Axial contrast-enhanced CT image obtained 5 months after initial appendectomy

Stump appendicitis is inflammation of residual appendiceal tissue after appendectomy and can occur months to years after the original operation. Inadequate visualization of the appendiceal-cecal junction can lead to longer stump length, a proposed risk factor for developing this condition and a theoretical risk related to laparoscopic technique [1]. The majority of reported cases (28/44) occurred following open appendectomy, but the number of cases related to laparoscopy likely will increase over time [2]. Stump appendicitis is infrequently included in the differential diagnosis for recurrent abdominal pain following appendectomy, and diagnosis may be delayed.

References

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