
Significance of leucocytic count in diagnosis of acute appendicitis

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1- 100 cases were examined in this work. 2- Full clinical examination, total & differential leuco-cytic count, operative findings and pathological examination of the specimens were done. 3- The cases were classified into the following: Normal appendix 10% Acute catarrhal appendicitis 17% Acute suppurative appendicitis 45% Acute gangrenous appendicitis 21% Perforated appendicitis 5% Appendicitis with mass 2% 4- 76% of the cases of acute appendicitis showed rise in the total leucocytic count. 5- 78 of the cases of acute appendicitis showed rise in the neutrophil count. 6- 93.3% of the cases of acute appendicitis showed rise in either total or differential leucocytic count. 7- The incidence of acute appendicitis in bilharzial cases was 4.4%. 8- There is direct proportion between the severity of the inflammation and the leucocytic count, which reversed when the appendix perforates, where the leucocytic count drops again.

CONCLUSION The findings of this work suggest that a routine leucocytic count, total and differential, are of value in the diagnosis of a suspected case of acute appendicitis. A leucocytosis of more than 10,000/cu.mm. of a differential in excess of 7% neutrophils supports the clinical diagnosis of appendicitis, but a normal leucocytic count does not exclude even a perforated appendix. A leucocytic count may be specially useful in difficult cases, for example, with atypical history or symptoms out of proportion to the physical signs, and in children where a clear history is difficult to obtain and who will not be cooperative during examination.