

## AB135. International survey on current management issues of acute appendicitis

Patrick Anthony Boland<sup>1</sup>, Noel Edward Donlon<sup>1,2</sup>, Michael Eamon Kelly<sup>1,2</sup>, Andrew Sheppard<sup>2</sup>, Maria Davern<sup>2</sup>, Waqar Khan<sup>1</sup>, Iqbal Khan<sup>1</sup>, Ronan Waldron<sup>1</sup>, Kevin Barry<sup>1,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of General Surgery, Mayo University Hospital, Mayo, Ireland; <sup>2</sup>Department of General Surgery, St. James' Hospital, Dublin, Ireland; <sup>3</sup>Discipline of Surgery, National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland

**Background:** In recent decades the management of acute appendicitis has evolved significantly. Improved imaging modalities along with clinical scoring algorithms have prompted a demand for lower rates of negative appendectomy. In particular, non-operative management has become in-vogue within the past number of years. The aim of this study was to assess the variability of management options amongst consultants and trainees.

**Methods:** Multi-national targeted survey of general surgeons across 38 countries. A structured set of questions was utilised to delineate nuances between management styles of consultants and trainees alike. Opinions on the

pathological diagnosis of appendicitis, acceptable negative appendectomy rates and non-operative treatment of appendicitis (NOTA) were surveyed.

**Results:** A total of 304 general surgeons responded to this survey, 42% of which were consultants/attendings. Sixty-nine percent advocated that a histologically normal appendix was the most appropriate definition of a negative appendectomy while 29% felt anything other than inflammation, necrosis, gangrene or perforation was most appropriate. 34% felt that negative appendectomy rates should be less than 5%. Forty-one percent reported that their own negative appendectomy rate was <5%. Only 17% reported routinely using NOTA for uncomplicated appendicitis. However, only 22% said they would agree to NOTA if they themselves had uncomplicated appendicitis.

**Conclusions:** This study represents the largest sampling of management strategies for acute appendicitis. It shows substantial heterogeneity between clinicians regarding what constitutes a negative appendectomy as well as the appropriateness of non-operative management.

**Keywords:** Appendicitis; general surgery; pathology

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