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**Original article**

**A Prospective Study of Christian Scoring System and its Co- Relation with Ultrasound in diagnosing Acute Appendicitis**

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**Abstract:**

**Background**: Diagnosis of acute appendicitis is still a clinical challenge. An early and accurate diagnosis at presentation helps in preventing perforation of the appendix and its complications, however a decision to operate based on clinical suspicion alone can lead to removal of normal appendix in 15-30% cases. In a prospective non randomised observational study the efficacy of five simple criteria described by Christian were used in the diagnosis of acute appendicitis along with Ultrasound to reduce negative appendicectomy rate.

**Methods:** After ethical approval a total of 120 patients presenting with pain abdomen and at least two other positive criteria as described by Christian were enrolled in the study, and subjected to abdominal ultrasound, were categorised into two groups and treated accordingly. Patients diagnosed to have appendicitis, underwent appendicectomy with pathological evaluation of the appendix. Study conducted at SDM College of Medical Sciences and Hospital Dharwad.

**Results:** The study shows Christian score combined with ultrasound had sensitivity of 91% and specificity of 90%. The positive and negative predictive values are 96.4% and 77% respectively.

**Conclusion :** Combined with ultrasound Christian scoring system has high sensitivity and specificity, and it is the simplest of all scoring systems in prediction of acute appendicitis and can be used by surgical residents, house surgeons and even the general practitioners in screening of patients with pain abdomen.

**Key words:** Pain Abdomen, Acute Appendicitis, Christian Score, Ultrasound Abdomen.