

ABSTRACT – DR. NADESH SITHASANAN

Differential Diagnosis Of Lower Abdominal Pain in Children

The abdomen is akin to a Pandora's box. The pertinent factor in childhood surgical diseases is the occurrence of certain pathologies that are unique to the age of the ailing child. The pathology in children is itself quite diverse compared to adult surgical pathology and the spectrum of disease is vast.

The old adage "Common diagnosis are usually correct and rare diagnosis are rarely correct", whilst still in vogue, nevertheless requires the clinician to have a complete database of probable causes in one's mind while dealing with lower abdominal pain in children.

As always a detailed clinical history from the carer is essential and vital.

Getting the child comfortable and at ease for a detailed physical examination should not be understated.

The common conditions that pose a problem are Constipation with trapped wind, Acute Appendicitis, Acute GastroEnteritis, Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Ovarian Problems in girls, referred pain from Testicular Torsion and dragging pain from Inguinal Herniae.

Clinical methods, the experience of the clinician- " The examining hand" so as to speak are the most essential tools that aid in arriving at a provisional or at times an absolute diagnosis. When faced with an equivocal abdomen repeated examination and review of the clinical condition together with the aid of Radiological and biochemical investigations certainly assists the clinician in the management.

This talk is about how to evaluate the sick child and render appropriate therapy be it conservative or surgical.