

WPEM GUIDELINES: rapid diagnosis and management of appendicitis in pediatric patients (age 1-20)

Box 1: Pediatric Appendicitis Score (PAS).

The Pediatric Appendicitis Score and Alvarado Score are the two most studied (5-9) scoring approaches to diagnosing appendicitis. Although comparable the PAS score performs slightly better as a stand-alone diagnostic tool and has been shown to be highly sensitive and specific when paired with ultrasound (5-10).

Pediatric Appendicitis Score

Cough/percussion/hopping tenderness in the right lower quadrant (2 points).
 Anorexia (1 point).
 Pyrexia (1 point).
 Nausea/emesis (1 point).
 RLQ tenderness (2 points).
 Migration of pain (1 point).
 Leukocytosis (WBC \geq 10,000)
 Polymorphonuclear neutrophilia (1 point)

GOALS: set national standard on lowering negative appendectomy rates while maintaining excellent sensitivity. 1) negative appendicitis rates less than or equal to 5% with a miss rate of less than 2%. 2) Cost effectiveness with faster throughput.

