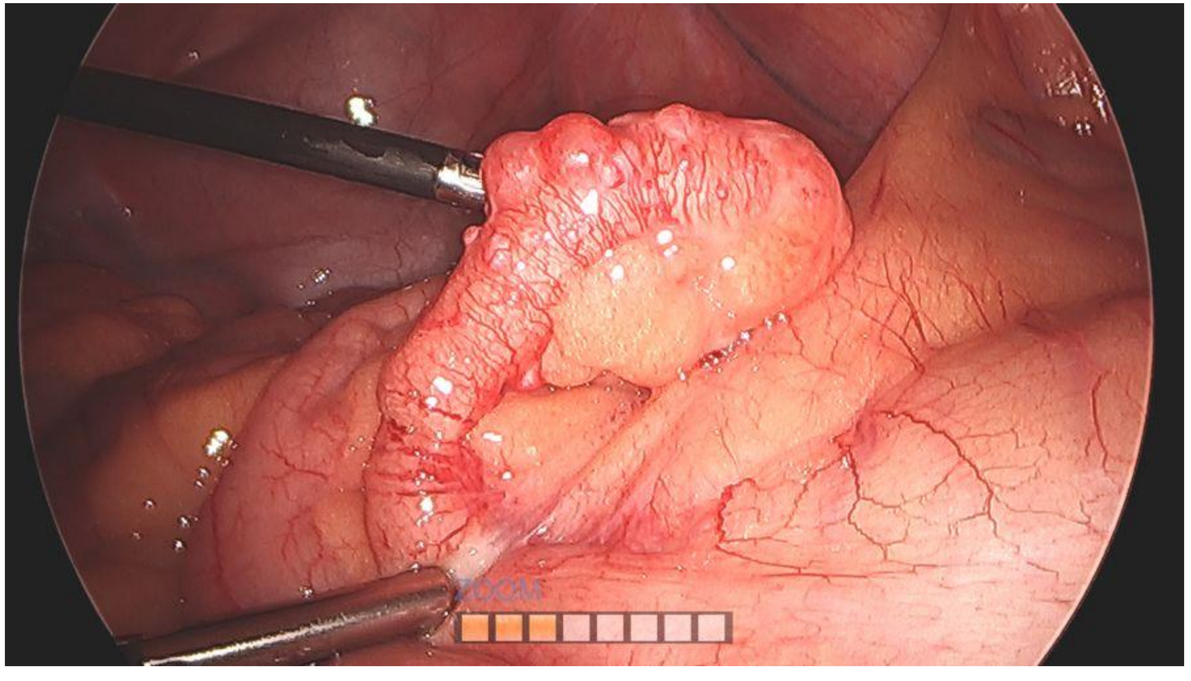
ISOLATED DIVERTICULITIS OF THE APPENDIX PRESENTING AS ACUTE APPENDICITIS

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Introduction: Diverticulitis of the appendix is a rare clinical entity and usually presents with atypical abdominal symptoms. It has been associated with a faster progression to perforation and higher rate of mortality. Studies have previously described the frequency of appendiceal diverticulitis as ranging from 0.004% to 2.1%. Studies have also linked appendiceal diverticula to an increased frequency of neoplasms. Appendiceal diverticular disease has five described subtypes. In this case report, we describe the presentation of type 1 appendiceal diverticular disease and a review of the literature.

Case Description: 28M with no past surgical history or past medical history who presented to the ED complaining of 1 day of abdominal pain that woke him from sleep. The pain was associated with nausea and one episode of non-bilious non-bloody emesis. The pain was described as generalized and not localized to any specific area. The patient's vitals were normal with normal temperature, heart rate, and blood pressure. Labs did not show any leukocytosis. The abdominal exam was soft, non-distended, minimally tender in RLQ and epigastric area with no guarding or rebound. CT abdomen and pelvis with oral and IV contrast revealed a minimally prominent 9 mm appendix tip with surrounding trace fluid and read as representing tip appendicitis in the appropriate clinical setting. The patient was started on IV fluids and IV Unasyn. The decision was made to bring the patient to the OR for a laparoscopic appendectomy that night. Intraoperative findings revealed a non-gangrenous, non-perforated appendix with multiple visible cystic-like outpouchings along the distal end. The appendix was sent to pathology and the final report revealed nodularity near the tip on the serosal surface, a cyst at the tip of the appendix measuring 0.4 cm in greatest diameter, and a final diagnosis of diverticular disease with one of the diverticulum showing acute diverticulitis with acute serositis and adhesions.



Discussion: Diverticulitis of the appendix is a rare clinical pathology that presents a diagnostic challenge but has important clinical implications. It is an entity that surgeons should be aware of in the course of managing patients with atypical or equivocal findings of acute appendicitis.