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Prevalence and causes of acute abdominal pain in adult patients presenting to the emergency department in Aleppo university hospital: a cross-sectional study

Submission date
01/11/2024

Recruitment status
No longer recruiting

Registration date
04/11/2024

Overall study status
Completed

Last Edited
04/11/2024

Condition category
Signs and Symptoms

[ ] Prospectively registered
[ ] Protocol
[ ] Statistical analysis plan
[ ] Results
[ ] Individual participant data
[ ] Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims
This study aims to understand the different causes of sudden abdominal pain in patients who come to the emergency department. We want to find out how common each cause is and how accurate different tests and examinations are in diagnosing these conditions.

Who can participate?
Adults aged 13 years and older who come to the emergency department with sudden abdominal pain can participate in this study. We are not including patients with chronic or unspecified abdominal pain, or those under 13 years old.

What does the study involve?
Participants will be asked to fill out a questionnaire about their symptoms, medical history, and other relevant information. They will also undergo a clinical examination and may have laboratory tests and imaging investigations as part of their routine care. The data collected will help us identify the causes of their abdominal pain and evaluate the accuracy of different diagnostic methods.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
By participating, patients will contribute to improving the understanding and diagnosis of acute abdominal pain, which could benefit future patients. There are no additional risks beyond those associated with the routine medical care they will receive.

Where is the study run from?
Emergency Department of Aleppo University Hospital (Syria)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
August 2024 to December 2024

Who is funding the study?
Investigator initiated and funded

Who is the main contact?
Mohammad Al-Jawad, mhammadjawad877@gmail.com

Contact information

Type(s)
Public, Scientific, Principal investigator

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Additional identifiers

Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS)
Nil known

ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT)
Nil known

Protocol serial number
Nil known

Study information

Scientific Title
Understanding acute abdominal pain: a study from Aleppo university hospital

Acronym
PACAP

Study objectives
To determine the prevalence causes of differential diagnoses for acute abdominal pain in patients presenting to the emergency department.

Ethics approval required

Ethics approval required

Ethics approval(s)
approved 25/08/2024, University of Aleppo Ethics Committee (-, Aleppo, -, Syria; +963 212622301; cmoffice@alepuniv.edu.sy), ref: 2408

Study design
Single-center cross-sectional observational study

Primary study design
Observational

Study type(s)
Screening

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Prevalence and causes of acute abdominal pain in adult patients presenting to the Emergency Department at Aleppo University Hospital

Interventions
This study employs a cross-sectional observational methodology. Adult patients presenting with acute abdominal pain at the Emergency Department of Aleppo University Hospital will be assessed. Data will be collected through structured interviews and clinical examinations. Relevant tests, such as blood tests and imaging studies (e.g., ultrasound), will be performed as deemed necessary by the attending physicians. Observations regarding the patients' demographics, clinical presentations, and final diagnoses will be documented to identify the prevalence and causes of acute abdominal pain.

Intervention Type
Not Specified

Primary outcome(s)
Measured at a single time point:
1. Prevalence of differential diagnoses for acute abdominal pain is measured using clinical records
2. Most common cause of acute abdominal pain is measured using clinical records
3. Diagnostic accuracy of clinical examination is measured using sensitivity and specificity analysis
4. Diagnostic accuracy of laboratory investigations is measured using sensitivity and specificity analysis
5. Diagnostic accuracy of imaging investigations is measured using sensitivity and specificity analysis
6. Age is measured using a questionnaire
7. Gender is measured using a questionnaire
8. Marital status is measured using a questionnaire
9. Employment status is measured using a questionnaire
10. Location of abdominal pain is measured using a questionnaire
11. Duration of abdominal pain is measured using a questionnaire
12. Nature of abdominal pain is measured using a questionnaire
13. Associated symptoms are measured using a questionnaire
14. Progression of symptoms is measured using a questionnaire
15. Previous treatment for abdominal pain is measured using a questionnaire

16. Abdominal examination findings are measured using clinical examination
17. Radiation of pain is measured using a questionnaire
18. Alleviating or exacerbating factors are measured using a questionnaire
19. Pain score is measured using the NRS scale
20. Impact on daily activities is measured using a questionnaire
21. Significant clinical findings are measured using clinical examination
22. Laboratory test results are measured using laboratory tests
23. Imaging investigation results are measured using imaging tests
24. Final diagnosis is measured using clinical records

Key secondary outcome(s))
There are no secondary outcome measures

Completion date
01/12/2024

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
1. Adult patients (aged 13 years and above)
2. Patients with acute abdominal pain

Participant type(s)
Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group
Adult

Lower age limit
13 years

Upper age limit
100 years

Sex
All

Total final enrolment
951

Key exclusion criteria
1. Chronic abdominal pain
2. Unspecified abdominal pain
3. Patient under 13 years

Date of first enrolment
01/10/2024

Date of final enrolment
30/10/2024

Locations

Countries of recruitment
Syria

Study participating centre
Aleppo University Hospital
Aleppo
Syria
-

Sponsor information

Organisation
University of Aleppo

ROR
https://ror.org/03mzvxz96

Funder(s)

Funder type
Other

Funder Name
Investigator initiated and funded

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan
The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study will be available upon request from Mohammad Al-Jawad, mhammadjawad877@gmail.com.

IPD sharing plan summary
Available on request

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Participant information sheet	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes