

International Conference on Women's Health, Gynecology & Obstetrics

July 08-10, 2014 DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Chicago-North Shore Conference Center, USA

Validity of ultrasound in patients with acute pelvic pain related to suspected ovarian torsion

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Objective: To assess the validity of ultrasound in the prediction of ovarian torsion in patients with acute pelvic pain related to clinically suspected ovarian torsion.

Methods: A retrospective observational study was conducted at the Ob/Gyn department using a 10-year chart review of all female patients older than 11 years of age with highly suspected ovarian torsion who underwent clinical assessment and ultrasound prior to surgery (n=62). The sensitivity and specificity of ultrasound were determined by cross-tabulation of the ultrasound and surgical findings.

Results: Of the suspected cases, 54 (87.1%) were confirmed to be cases of ovarian torsion by surgery. The majority of the cases were suggestive of ovarian torsion, which was indicated by clinical examination (77.4%), ultrasound (77.4%), or pathological examination (79%). Almost one-half of the cases (46.8%) showed a pain score >6; two-thirds (62.9%) presented with vomiting and/or nausea; and more than one-third (38.7%) presented with leukocytosis. The estimated sensitivity and specificity of ultrasound were 0.74 and 0.0, respectively. The positive predictive value was 0.83. Ultrasound was significantly associated with both clinical examination (p=0.039) and pain score (p=0.008).

Conclusion: The diagnosis of ovarian torsion cannot be exclusively based on ultrasound. Both clinical and sonographical evaluation of acute pelvic pain should be considered for the diagnosis. A definitive diagnosis remains challenging.

Biography

Leena Mawaldi is an Obs/Gyn Consultant. She has done her MBBS from Damascus University- Medical College- Syria. She has 8 papers published in local and international journals. Since 12 years she has been working in King Abdulaziz Medical City Ministry of National Guard.

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