

# CASE REPORT

## ONE OF THE LONGEST APPENDIX: A RARE CASE REPORT

B. Venkat Rao<sup>1</sup>, W. Sudhakar<sup>2</sup>, G. Vasu Babu<sup>3</sup>, M. Rohit Babu<sup>4</sup>

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**ABSTRACT:** The vermiform appendix is an organ that can have variable sizes. We are prompted to report here one of the longest appendix removed, measuring about 16cm in length.

**INTRODUCTION:** The vermiform appendix is an organ that can vary in size, site, and presence, as well as in other clinical and functional aspects. We describe here one of the longest appendix removed, measuring about 16cm in length in a case of acute appendicitis.

**KEYWORDS:** Appendix, Appendicectomy.

**CASE REPORT:** A 13-year-old male came with a complaint of abdominal pain in right iliac fossa for two days, associated with anorexia and vomiting. On examination Right iliac fossa tenderness present. Routine investigations were in normal limits except for elevated WBC count of 12000cells/mm<sup>3</sup>. Ultrasonography of the abdomen showed 5.1mm dilated appendix with multiple enlarged mesenteric lymphnodes s/o Acute Appendicitis. On performing surgery we identified long appendix (Fig. 1) and in retrocolic position. Appendix was so long that beginning from caecum in the right Iliac fossa, it reached up to hepatic flexure.



**Fig. 1: Intraoperative photograph showing long appendix**

Post operatively the appendix was measured and it was 16cm in length, which was congested and inflamed (Fig. 2). Histopathological examination of the removed specimen confirmed acute appendicitis. Post-operative period was uneventful.



**Fig. 2: Post-operative photograph showing length of appendix**

**DISCUSSION:** In humans appendix is longer in children than in adults, becoming even smaller after midlife. Moreover, about 1 in 100,000 humans are born without an appendix, and rare individuals have been reported to be born with two appendixes.<sup>[1]</sup>

The length of appendix varies from 2 to 20 cm, and the average length is 9cm in adults. The base of appendix is located at the convergence of the taeniae along the inferior aspect of the cecum and this anatomic relationship facilitates identification of appendix at operation.<sup>[2]</sup> The tip of appendix may lie various locations. The most common is retrocecal but within the peritoneal

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cavity. It is pelvic in 30% and retroperitoneal in 7% of the population.<sup>[3]</sup> It is typically longer in males than females. The longest appendixes reported measured 26 cm (10.24inches) removed at autopsy from a 72-year-old man and 55 cm (21.65 inches) removed from A 13-year-old male.<sup>[4]</sup> In India, the longest appendix reported is 18cm from a 25yr old male.<sup>[5]</sup>

Throughout medical history, many possible functions for the appendix have been suggested, including exocrine, endocrine, and neuromuscular functions.<sup>[6]</sup> Darwin suggested that the appendix had been used by primate ancestors of humans to digest leaves. Over time, as humans ate fewer leaves, the appendix evolved to a smaller size to make room for the stomach.<sup>[7]</sup>

Currently it is unclear whether the lymphoid tissue in the human appendix performs any specialized function, different from that performed by the much larger amount of lymphatic tissue distributed throughout the gut. It is suggested that the appendix may harbor and protect bacteria that are beneficial in the function of the human colon.<sup>[8]</sup>

**CONCLUSION:** Acute appendicitis is a surgical emergency, though conservative approach suggested Appendicectomy is the definitive treatment.

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## AUTHORS:

1. B. Venkat Rao
2. W. Sudhakar
3. G. Vasu Babu
4. M. Rohit Babu

## PARTICULARS OF CONTRIBUTORS:

1. Assistant Professor, Department of General Surgery, Andhra Medical College, Visakhapatnam.
2. Assistant Professor, Department of General Surgery, Andhra Medical College, Visakhapatnam.
3. Post Graduate, Department of General Surgery, Andhra Medical College, Visakhapatnam.

4. Post Graduate, Department of General Surgery, Andhra Medical College, Visakhapatnam.

## NAME ADDRESS EMAIL ID OF THE CORRESPONDING AUTHOR:

Dr. W. Sudhakar,  
Assistant Professor,  
King George Hospital,  
Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh-530002.  
E-mail: sudhakarwaddi@yahoo.co.in

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