

EFSUMB Position Paper: Recommendations for Gastrointestinal Ultrasound (GIUS) in Acute Appendicitis and Diverticulitis

EFSUMB-Positionspapier: Empfehlungen für den gastrointestinalen Ultraschall (GIUS) bei akuter Appendizitis und Divertikulitis

Authors

Klaus Dirks¹, Emma Calabrese², Christoph F. Dietrich³, Odd Helge Gilja⁴, Trygve Hausken⁵, Antony Higginson⁶, Alois Hollerweger⁷, Giovanni Maconi⁸, Christian Maaser⁹, Dieter Nuernberg¹⁰, Kim Nylund¹¹, Nadia Pallotta¹², Tomas Ripolles¹³, Laura Romanini¹⁴, Adrian Saftoiu¹⁵, Carla Serra¹⁶, Matthias Wüstner¹⁷, Ioan Sporea¹⁸

Affiliations

- 1 Gastroenterology and Internal Medicine, Rems-Murr-Klinikum Winnenden, Germany
- 2 Gastroenterology Unit, Department of Systems Medicine, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Roma, Italy
- 3 Medizinische Klinik 2, Caritas-Krankenhaus, Bad Mergentheim, Germany
- 4 Haukeland-University-Hospital, National Centre for Ultrasound in Gastroenterology, Bergen, Norway
- 5 Department of Medicine, Haukeland-University-Hospital, Bergen, Norway
- 6 Department of Radiology, Queen-Alexandra-Hospital, Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust, Portsmouth, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- 7 Radiologie und Nuklearmedizin, KH Barmherzige Brüder, Salzburg, Austria
- 8 Gastroenterology Unit, Department of Biomedical and Clinical Sciences, "L. Sacco" University-Hospital, "L. Sacco" University-Hospital, Milan, Italy
- 9 Ambulanzzentrum Gastroenterologie, Klinikum Lüneburg, Germany
- 10 Gastroenterology, Medical School Brandenburg Theodor Fontane, Neuruppin, Germany
- 11 Gastroenterology, Haukeland-University-Hospital, Bergen, Norway
- 12 Department of Internal Medicine and Medical Specialties, Sapienza University of Rome, Roma, Italy
- 13 Radiology, Hospital Universitario Doctor Peset, Valencia, Spain
- 14 Dept. of Radiology, Radiologia 1, Spedali Civili di Brescia, Italy
- 15 Research Center of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Craiova, Romania
- 16 Department of Digestive System, Sant'Orsola-Malpighi-Hospital and University of Bologna, Italy
- 17 Zentrale interdisziplinäre Sonografie, Brüderkrankenhaus, Trier, Germany
- 18 Gastroenterology, University of Medicine and Pharmacy Timisoara, Romania

Key words

appendicitis, diverticulitis, guideline, ultrasound, gastrointestinal tract

received 10.09.2018

accepted 03.12.2018

Bibliography

DOI <https://doi.org/10.1055/a-0824-6952>

Published online: January 7, 2019

Ultraschall in Med 2019; 40: 163–175

© Georg Thieme Verlag KG, Stuttgart · New York
ISSN 0172-4614

Correspondence

Klaus Dirks
Gastroenterologie und Innere Medizin, Rems-Murr-Klinikum Winnenden, Am Jakobsweg 1, 71364 Winnenden, Germany
Tel.: ++49/71 95/59 13 93 22
klaus.dirks@remms-murr-kliniken.de

ABSTRACT

An interdisciplinary task force of European experts summarizes the value of gastrointestinal ultrasound (GIUS) in the management of acute appendicitis and diverticulitis. Based on an extensive literature review, clinical recommendations for these highly common diseases in visceral medicine are presented.

In patients with acute appendicitis, preoperative sonography has been established as a routine procedure in most European countries for medical and legal reasons. Routine sonography in these patients may reduce the rate of unnecessary surgery by half. The sensitivity, specificity, and accuracy of ultrasound reach values above 90% and are equivalent to CT and MRI. However, the high operator dependence may be a problem, for example in point-of-care ultrasound in emergency departments. Structured training programs, quality controls and standardized ultrasound reporting should be increasingly implemented.

In the case of suspected acute diverticulitis, "ultrasound first" should also be a basic element in the approach to all patients. Sonography can confirm the diagnosis and allows early risk stratification. As treatment strategies have become less ag-

gressive and more tailored to the stage of diverticulitis, accurate staging has become increasingly important. GIUS and CT have proven to have similar sensitivity and specificity. Especially in cases of uncomplicated diverticulitis, GIUS will be the one and only imaging procedure. CT may work as a backup and has particular advantages for diverticulitis located in the distal sigmoid, inflammation deep in the small pelvis and insufficient ultrasound scanning conditions. This step-up approach (ultrasound first and CT only in case of a negative or inconclusive ultrasound result) has proven to yield the best accuracy.

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Im Rahmen des EFSUMB-Leitlinienprojekts zum gastrointestinalen Ultraschall (GIUS) gibt eine interdisziplinäre Arbeitsgruppe von europäischen Experten einen Überblick zum Nutzen der Sonografie bei akuter Appendizitis und Divertikulitis. Basierend auf einer umfangreichen Literaturrecherche werden klinische Empfehlungen zu diesen häufigen Erkrankungen der Viszeral-Medizin vorgestellt.

Bei Patienten mit akuter Appendizitis haben medizinische und juristische Erwägungen die präoperative Sonografie heute als Routineverfahren in den meisten europäischen Ländern fest etabliert. Die Sonografie kann hier die Rate unnötiger Opera-

tion halbieren. Sensitivität, Spezifität und Genauigkeit des Ultraschalls erreichen Werte von über 90 % und entsprechen CT oder MRT. Eine hohe Untersucherabhängigkeit kann jedoch problematisch sein, beispielsweise beim bettseitigen Ultraschall in der Notaufnahme oder Praxis. Strukturierte Trainingsprogramme, Qualitätskontrollen und ein standardisierter Befundbericht sollten deshalb Einzug in den klinischen Alltag finden. Auch beim Verdacht auf eine akute Divertikulitis sollte die „ultrasound first“-Strategie Anwendung finden.

Die Sonografie kann die Diagnose einer Divertikulitis bestätigen und den Schweregrad abschätzen. Da heutige Therapie-strategien weniger aggressiv und mehr auf das Stadium der Divertikulitis zugeschnitten sind, ist eine genaue Einteilung des Schweregrads immer wichtiger geworden. GIUS und CT haben hier eine ähnliche Sensitivität und Spezifität. Gerade bei unkomplizierter Divertikulitis ist die Sonografie völlig ausreichend. Das CT kann als Backup dienen und hat Vorteile bei der Divertikulitis im distalen Sigma, bei einer Entzündung tief im kleinen Becken oder bei unzureichenden Untersuchungsbedingungen. Eine solche Stufendiagnostik (Ultraschall zuerst und CT nur im Falle eines negativen oder nicht eindeutigen Befundes) hat bei der Divertikulitis die höchste Genauigkeit bewiesen.

content

1.	Introduction
2.	Acute appendicitis
2.1.	Prevalence and clinical implication
2.2.	Examination technique
2.3.	Sonography of uncomplicated appendicitis
2.4.	Sonography of complicated appendicitis
2.5.	Value of the different sonographic criteria
2.6.	False negative results
2.7.	False positive results
2.8.	Comparison of US with others imaging methods
2.9.	Diagnostic strategy
2.10.	Education and quality management
3.	Acute diverticulitis
3.1.	Prevalence and clinical spectrum of acute diverticulitis
3.2.	Examination technique
3.3.	Classification of acute diverticulitis
3.4.	Sonography in uncomplicated diverticulitis
3.5.	Sonography in complicated diverticulitis
3.6.	Unusual localizations of diverticulitis
3.7.	The role of US in the treatment of diverticular abscesses
3.8.	Comparison of GIUS with others imaging methods
3.9.	Diagnostic strategy

References

1. Introduction

In 2014 the European Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (EFSUMB) formed a Gastrointestinal Ultrasound (GIUS) task force group to promote the use of GIUS in a clinical setting. Altogether seven “Recommendations and Guidelines for Gastrointestinal Ultrasound (GIUS)” are planned. Guidelines for examination techniques and normal findings [1] and for inflammatory bowel diseases [2] marked the kick-off last year. This paper adds recommendations for acute appendicitis and diverticulitis as highly common diseases in visceral medicine.

A team of 18 European experts in Gastrointestinal Ultrasound from Gastroenterology, Radiology and Surgery created recommendations for the use of imaging, based on an extensive literature review until May 2018. These recommendations were refined and finally voted on in an online survey. The agreement/disagreement level was scored on a five-point Likert scale as follows: A+: agree; A-: rather agree; I: indecisive; D-: rather disagree; D+: disagree. All 21 statements had broad agreement of more than 80 % of the experts. The consensus levels of agreement are listed for each recommendation.

2. Acute appendicitis

2.1. Prevalence and clinical implication

Acute appendicitis is the most common surgical disease in Western countries, with a lifetime prevalence of 7–8 % [3, 4]. In 1986, Puylaert introduced graded compression ultrasound in the workup of suspected appendicitis [5]. Beside clinical examination

and laboratory findings, imaging has become the third component in the assessment of patients with suspected appendicitis [6, 7]. The three main goals of the ultrasound examination are:

- Exclusion of an alternative abdominal disease.
- Confirmation of typical appendicitis or
- Ruling out of acute appendicitis, by proving a normal appendix over its entire length.

The routine use of ultrasound in suspected appendicitis halves the rate of negative appendectomies and reduces surgical complications and costs [6, 8–10].

Recent studies evaluated antibiotic therapy as a possible alternative in selected cases of uncomplicated appendicitis. For this, appendicitis must be verified by imaging and complicated versus uncomplicated appendicitis should be distinguished [11–13].

STATEMENT 1

The use of ultrasound imaging should be a routine procedure in every patient with suspected appendicitis.

Consensus levels of agreement: A+ 16/18; A– 2/18

STATEMENT 2

Routine sonography in all patients with suspected appendicitis halves the rate of unnecessary surgery (negative laparotomy rate).

Consensus levels of agreement: A+ 14/18; A– 4/18

2.2. Examination technique

One way to detect an inflamed appendix is a simple search at the point of maximum tenderness [5]. An alternative way involves systematic localization of the ascending colon, the cecal pole, the terminal ileum and the origin of the appendix, 2–3 cm below the medial contour of the cecum [14, 15]. Examination is performed using the graded compression technique first described by Puylaert [5]. Gentle compression eliminates disturbing gas and reduces the distance to the pathologic process. Additions to this technique have been described, for example a left oblique body position in obese patients or an upward graded compression technique in children [16–19]. Ultrasound experience plays a role in the visualization of the appendix. Practical training in normal and pathological conditions is mandatory to enable adequate appendix evaluation.

STATEMENT 3

The graded compression technique should be used for visualization of the appendix.

Consensus levels of agreement: A+ 18/18

STATEMENT 4

Anatomical variations require a systematic examination technique for identification of the appendix.

Consensus levels of agreement: A+ 17/18; A– 1/18

2.3. Sonography of uncomplicated appendicitis

Previously, acute appendicitis was diagnosed when a thickened vermiform appendix could be visualized at the point of maximum tenderness [5]. However, increasing experience and technical improvements have made it possible to demonstrate a normal appendix in more than half of adults and more than 70% of children [20–22]. Beside maximum diameter, several additional criteria that help to distinguish between an inflamed and a normal appendix have been established. These criteria are the same for children and adults [23].

Primary signs of acute appendicitis

1. Maximum outer diameter of more than 6 mm [14, 17, 24–30]. A diameter between 6–8 mm indicates an equivocal zone of uncertainty [27, 31, 32].
2. Maximal tenderness over the thickened appendix [5, 15, 29, 33, 34].
3. Incompressibility of the inflamed appendix [14, 17, 24, 25, 28–30, 35].
4. (Large) appendicoliths [14, 25, 26, 28, 29, 36].
5. Hypervascularity in color Doppler in uncomplicated cases [14, 29, 37, 38].
6. Loss of stratification in gangrenous appendicitis [25, 29, 30, 36].

Secondary signs of acute appendicitis (in the surroundings)

1. Hyperechoic periappendiceal tissue [14, 15, 17, 24, 25, 29, 30, 34, 39].
2. Complex fluid collection (pericecal abscess) [14, 15, 17, 25, 29, 39].
3. Mesenteric lymphadenopathy [14, 15, 25, 40, 41].
4. Periappendiceal fluid [14, 15, 25].

2.4. Sonography of complicated appendicitis

Complicated appendicitis includes gangrenous appendicitis (focal or complete necrosis of the wall) as well as perforation (inducing abscess, regional peritonitis and general peritonitis). Confirmation of these complications has consequences for treatment and usually rules out conservative treatment [13, 42, 43]. There is a continuous transition from severe uncomplicated (phlegmonous) to gangrenous appendicitis.

The loss of the normally echogenic submucosal layer seems to be the best independent indicator of gangrenous appendicitis [11]. Other indicators of necrosis may be the lack of vascularization on color Doppler or an appendiceal wall enhancement defect, but these have not been sufficiently investigated [44, 45].

Signs of (sealed) perforation are extraluminal gas, localized collections of periappendiceal fluid, extraluminal appendicoliths and abscess [14, 15, 24, 25, 39].

To distinguish non-complicated from complicated appendicitis, scoring systems based on clinical and imaging features have been suggested [13, 44–46]. However, they must still be confirmed in larger studies. Other features like intraluminal appendicoliths do not implicate complicated appendicitis, but are associated with perforation and recurrence under antibiotic therapy [42, 47, 48].

2.5. Value of the various sonographic criteria

In routine clinical examination, only the combination of as many different criteria as possible guarantees the best results in the validation or ruling out of acute appendicitis [14, 15, 24, 25, 29, 30, 33, 34, 39]. The three most important criteria in the confirmation of acute appendicitis are:

1. max. diameter of appendix > 6 mm
2. maximum pain over the appendix
3. hyperechoic periappendiceal tissue

Free fluid, mesenteric lymphadenopathy and vascularity of the appendiceal wall on color Doppler are nonspecific signs and can be found in many other situations [14, 15, 25]. Definite exclusion of appendicitis requires visualization of the normal appendix in its entire length [29].

STATEMENT 5

A thickened appendix at the point of maximum tenderness and hyperechoic periappendiceal tissue are the most important signs of appendicitis.

Consensus levels of agreement: A+ 15/17; A– 2/17

2.6. False-negative results

Non-visualization of the appendix is a problem and does not rule out acute appendicitis. The most important reason for false-negative results is inexperience in GIUS and the examination technique. In this case, an intensive search for indirect signs of appendicitis should be performed as a first step [49–51].

However, some situations are challenging even for experienced investigators: in particular when the appendix has a retrocecal or pelvic position or in very obese patients [33, 52–54]. In these cases, adequate compression, scanning in a left lateral decubitus position of the patient and use of a convex probe may be essential to visualize the appendix [17, 52, 53]. Focal appendicitis confined to the tip has a frequency of about 5% and is another factor in misdiagnosis [25, 37]. Therefore, demonstration of the entire length of the appendix is important [15, 25, 37].

Gas in the appendiceal wall in cases of gangrenous appendicitis may be misinterpreted as a gas-containing bowel loop [15, 55]. A perforated and completely destructed appendix in an abscess is another rare cause of a false-negative result.

STATEMENT 6

Adequate training is a precondition for sonographic diagnosis of acute appendicitis.

Consensus levels of agreement: A+ 18/18

STATEMENT 7

Atypical positions of the appendix are the most frequent cause of false-negative results.

Consensus levels of agreement: A+ 12/18; A– 4/18; I 2/18

2.7. False-positive results

Soon after introducing ultrasound as a preoperative tool, cases of “spontaneously resolving appendicitis” were observed [56, 57]. Recent research confirms mild forms of appendicitis, which resolve spontaneously or under antibiotic therapy [4, 58, 59]. Strictly speaking they are not false-positive, but rather mild courses that probably would not require surgery.

Several other pitfalls can lead to a false-positive US diagnosis of acute appendicitis:

1. Incorrect classification of the terminal ileum as an inflamed appendix [15, 60–64].
2. Other tubular structures in the right lower abdomen simulating an inflamed appendix:
 - e. g. Meckel’s diverticulitis
 - right-sided colonic diverticulitis
 - dilated Fallopian tube
 - gonadal vein thrombosis
 - muscle fibers of psoas [15, 61, 62, 64]
3. Appendiceal thickening can also be produced by other conditions [65–71]:
 - a) Primary appendiceal thickening
 - Crohn’s disease: appendicular involvement is relatively frequent (20–25%) [65–67]
 - infectious enterocolitis
 - cecal carcinoma [61, 66, 68]
 - appendiceal tumors such as cystadenoma, mucocele or carcinoid [61, 66, 69]
 - b) Secondary thickening (periappendicitis in case of peritonitis)

STATEMENT 8

Systematic search for signs that suggest differential diagnoses of appendicitis should be implemented.

Consensus levels of agreement: A+ 17/18; A– 1/18

2.8. Comparison of US with others imaging methods

The diagnostic accuracy of high-end ultrasound in suspected appendicitis has clearly improved over the last decades. Meanwhile the sensitivity, specificity, and accuracy of ultrasound have reached values above 90% and are equivalent to CT or MRI [72–78].

► **Table 1** Based on clinical assessment, laboratory results, and possibly scoring results, three scenarios are common in the daily routine.

risk of appendicitis	Alvarado or AIR points	impact of sonography
low	0–4	visualization of the normal appendix in its full length definitively rules out appendicitis complete ultrasound is helpful in finding an alternative diagnosis
intermediate	5–8	validation of an inflamed appendix confirms the need for surgery if the diagnosis remains unclear, complementary CT, MRI or serial ultrasound performed by an experienced operator may be helpful
high	>8	confirmation of acute appendicitis diagnosis of complications, e. g. abscess

However, ultrasound is a highly operator-dependent tool, and its sensitivity fluctuates greatly in the case of inexperienced operators or inadequate equipment. Institutions using US regularly have a higher sensitivity, and the sensitivity increases with an increased rate of visualization of the appendix [79–81]. In addition, patient characteristics (e. g. obesity) may influence the sensitivity of US [82].

Point-of-care ultrasonography (POCUS) is increasingly performed by emergency physicians to diagnose acute appendicitis and is available around the clock. If adequate equipment and training are provided, the results will reach accuracy nearly equal to that of ultrasound performed by radiologists, gastroenterologists and pediatricians [83–86].

Ultrasound for suspected appendicitis may be challenging among pregnant women: if the appendix can be visualized, the specificity of US is good. In equivocal cases, MRI has a higher sensitivity and is considered the method of choice in pregnant women [85, 87].

STATEMENT 9

In the hands of well-trained operators and with adequate equipment, the sensitivity and specificity of ultrasound in acute appendicitis are similar to CT and MRI.

Consensus levels of agreement: A+ 15/18; A– 2/18; I 1/18

2.9. Diagnostic strategy

Preoperative imaging has become routine in the workup of suspected appendicitis for both medical and legal reasons. Ultrasound is available in almost every emergency department as a point-of-care procedure 24/7 hours without delay. It is cheap, noninvasive and without ionizing radiation [88].

Based on this data, an “ultrasound first and always” strategy has proved to be reasonable in both children and adults [89–93]. Primary ultrasound supports the ALARA principle (radiation as low as reasonably achievable), thereby avoiding radiation exposure, especially in children and women of childbearing age [94, 95]. Consistent use of ultrasound in right lower quadrant pain can reduce the need for additional CT or MRI imaging to a small fraction [76, 96–99]. Cases of inconclusive ultrasonography

should lead to clinical reassessment. A second ultrasound after an observation period [100, 101] or a complementary MRI or CT examination should be considered.

Diagnostic scoring systems are recommended in some guidelines as a part of a diagnostic algorithm for suspected appendicitis [87, 102]. There are several competing scores [e. g. the Alvarado Score, Pediatric Appendicitis Score (PAS), and Appendicitis Inflammatory Response score (AIR)] but these do not always perform satisfactorily. Even the cut-off values are not clear. Scores may be used for roughly estimating the likelihood, but not for proving appendicitis [103–105]. In accordance with the Dutch guidelines [92], we recommend routine use of ultrasound in all cases of suspected appendicitis and do not consider the use of scoring groups obligatory (► **Table 1**).

STATEMENT 10

In any case of suspected appendicitis, an “ultrasound first” strategy should be used in both children and adults.

Consensus levels of agreement: A+ 18/18

STATEMENT 11

Complementary CT or MRI should be limited to inconclusive findings and difficult conditions, e. g. in very obese patients or in pregnant women (MRI).

Consensus levels of agreement: A+ 14/18; A– 3/18; I 2/18; D– 1/18

2.10. Education and quality management

In more cases than in other imaging modalities, GIUS depends on individual skills and adequate ultrasound equipment. So-called “non-diagnostic ultrasound” represents a problem especially among less experienced operators. Non-diagnostic ultrasound is caused either by borderline results (e. g. borderline thickening of the appendix to 7 mm) or if the appendix could not be visualized. Non-visualization should be minimized by training and ultrasound experience [106, 107]. If the appendix cannot be visualized, the report should include information as to whether secondary findings in the right lower abdomen were present or not [108].

Visualization of the appendix and especially the search for secondary sonographic features can be taught even to less experienced investigators [83, 109–112]. A structured training program, the use of standardized ultrasound reporting templates and regular feedback enhance the accuracy of ultrasound and dramatically reduce the number of non-diagnostic ultrasound scans [8, 77, 108, 113–118]. In this way, the use of CT for patients with an equivocal ultrasound result, costs and admission for observation can be reduced [114].

STATEMENT 12

Structured training programs, quality controls and the use of standardized ultrasound reporting templates should be integrated in the training of emergency physicians for point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) in appendicitis.

Consensus levels of agreement: A+ 17/18; D+ 1/18

3. Acute diverticulitis

3.1. Prevalence and clinical spectrum of acute diverticulitis

Colonic diverticula are a common condition, especially in elderly people in Western populations. Complications such as diverticulitis and diverticular bleeding are a frequent cause of hospital admission [119]. Acute diverticulitis occurs in approximately 5% of people with diverticula, sometimes in recurrent episodes [120, 121]. The incidence of acute diverticulitis seems to have increased during the last years, especially in young and obese subjects [119].

For many years the diagnosis of acute diverticulitis was made clinically, by the triad of left-sided abdominal pain, fever and laboratory markers of inflammation. However, systematic evaluation revealed a high rate of incorrect diagnosis [122, 123], and additional imaging was recommended in cases of suspected diverticulitis [124–128]. Furthermore, imaging procedures enable us to differentiate uncomplicated from complicated diverticulitis. Roughly, 15% of patients have complicated disease, defined as an abscess, perforation, fistula, or stenosis [124].

STATEMENT 1

Ultrasound imaging should be a routine procedure in all patients with suspected diverticulitis.

Consensus levels of agreement: A+ 17/18; I 1/18

STATEMENT 2

Sonography can confirm the diagnosis of acute diverticulitis and allows early risk stratification.

Consensus levels of agreement: A+ 16/18; A– 1/18; I 1/18

► **Table 2** Classification of Diverticular Disease (CDD) 2014.

type 0	asymptomatic diverticulosis
type 1	acute uncomplicated diverticulitis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1a: without phlegmonous reaction ▪ 1b: phlegmonous reaction (colon/surroundings)
type 2	acute complicated diverticulitis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2a Microabscess (<1 cm) ▪ 2b Macroabscess ▪ 2c Free perforation
type 3	chronic diverticular disease
type 4	diverticular bleeding

3.2. Examination technique

The scanning techniques for evaluating the colon are described in detail in part 1 of the EFSUMB recommendations for GIUS [1] and in the WFUMB position papers [117, 118]. The graded compression technique is used as described in appendicitis. The easiest way to start your search is at the point of maximum tenderness pointed out by the patient [129, 130]. Alternatively, the sigmoid colon could be localized ventral to the left iliac artery in a cross section and from there be tracked distally and orally to the descending colon. Particularly, for the lower sigmoid, a moderately filled urinary bladder may be beneficial.

3.3. Classification of acute diverticulitis

Various classifications of acute and chronic diverticulitis have been published and modified during the last 55 years [128, 131]. The first of these classifications was based on clinical and surgical findings [132]. In 1978, Hinchey's original classification [133] divided complicated diverticulitis into four stages (from local abscess to generalized fecal peritonitis). Hinchey's classification was refined and amended several times and, until today, in various modifications, it remains the basis of most classifications.

Most of the current classifications are based on CT findings [134], but, to this day, not even the use of intravenous or rectal contrast agents is standardized. Ultrasound as a "point-of-care" method that is available in almost every emergency department proved to be able to confirm and classify acute diverticulitis as well [130, 135, 136].

In 2014, the German Society of Gastroenterology (DGVS) and the Society of Visceral Surgery (DGAV) agreed on another classification as part of the new German S2k guidelines: Classification of Diverticular Disease (CDD) [125]. This classification is not linked to a specific diagnostic preference, such as CT versus ultrasonography [137, 138]. However, all guidelines distinguish between uncomplicated and complicated diverticulitis. Complications are generally defined as abscess, perforation, fistula or stenosis [128] (► **Table 2**).

3.4. Sonography in uncomplicated diverticulitis

Uninflamed colonic diverticula can be detected as outpouchings of the colonic wall, often containing gaseous feces or fecaliths, sometimes associated with acoustic shadowing [136, 139, 140].

Particularly, sigmoid colon diverticulosis may be associated with slight thickening of the muscularis propria (the outer hypoechoic layer), caused by a hypertrophied circular smooth muscle.

The following three criteria allow the sonographic diagnosis of acute diverticulitis [130, 136, 139, 141]:

1. Short segmental colonic wall thickening (>5 mm).
2. Demonstration of the inflamed diverticulum in the wall-thickened area (in contrast to normal diverticula, they are often hypoechoic and are surrounded by hyperechoic fatty tissue).
3. Pericolonic tissue changes (non-compressible, hyperechoic).

All three signs correlate very well with the point of maximum tenderness and can be evoked by the graded compression, with the ultrasound transducer (dynamic examination).

These criteria have been confirmed by prospective studies and two meta-analyses, providing high diagnostic accuracy, with a sensitivity and positive predictive value above 90% [7, 135, 142–145]. The diagnostic accuracy remains slightly inferior to that of CT scan, particularly in obese patients and in deeply seated lesions in the pelvis. In contrast to the United States, sonography is used as the first-line imaging modality in some European countries and most developing countries [125, 137, 146–149]. A step-up strategy with US as the first-line method followed by CT whenever US is inconclusive or unreliable seems to represent the most effective approach [150].

STATEMENT 3

GIUS accurately assesses acute diverticulitis by detecting short segmental colonic wall thickening (>5 mm), an inflamed diverticulum and pericolonic tissue changes.

Consensus levels of agreement: A+ 15/17; A– 2/17

STATEMENT 4

GIUS should be the first-line diagnostic procedure followed by additional CT scan only in the case of inconclusive sonographic findings.

Consensus levels of agreement: A+ 13/18; A– 2/18; D– 2/18; D+ 1/18

3.5. Sonography in complicated diverticulitis

In cases of severe diverticulitis, greater thickening of the colonic wall and increasing paracolic tissue changes can be found. The typical complications of acute diverticulitis include abscess formation, fistulas, perforation and stenosis (CDD type 2).

The US morphology of diverticular abscesses varies widely: they usually appear as hypoechoic fluid collections, sometimes containing echogenic debris and gas bubbles. Hyperechoic, gas-containing abscesses are sometimes difficult to differentiate from bowel loops [151]. In unclear cases with a suspected abscess deep in the pelvis or a gas-containing abscess, additional CT should be performed.

Contrast-enhanced ultrasound (CEUS) is an accurate method for differentiating between intra-abdominal phlegmon and abscess, which both may manifest as hypoechoic masses [152]. CEUS may help to better define the size of the fluid collections and guide sonographic intervention.

Fistulas may present as hypoechoic bands with or without central gas bubbles. Fistulas can involve an adjacent bowel loop, the bladder, or the uterus [140]. Gas in the urinary bladder is an indirect sign of a sigmoid-vesical fistula.

The typical signs of perforation are gas bubbles outside the bowel loops. Contained perforations, fistulas and abscesses are characterized by air bubbles in the mesentery or in an echo-poor fluid collection. Free peritoneal air or air bubbles in the retroperitoneal space, indicate free or retroperitoneal perforation [137, 153].

STATEMENT 5

CEUS can be used in cases of acute diverticulitis to differentiate between periintestinal phlegmon and abscess.

Consensus levels of agreement: A+ 18/18

3.6. Unusual locations of diverticulitis

Right-sided diverticulitis tends to occur in younger patients and is more frequent in the Far East. The sonographic signs are identical to those of left-sided diverticulitis and ultrasound usually allows differentiation from acute appendicitis [40, 154].

The lower sigmoid colon may be difficult to assess by transabdominal ultrasound and represents a blind spot of GIUS. Especially if the bladder is empty, lower diverticulitis in the deep pelvic region cannot be ruled out by ultrasound. As an alternative to CT or MRI imaging, additional transvaginal or transrectal ultrasound can be used [155, 156] but its use is not widespread.

3.7. The role of US in the treatment of diverticular abscesses

GIUS is a versatile tool for diagnosing paracolic abscesses in complicated diverticulitis. In some special cases, such as distant mesenteric or deep pelvic abscesses, CT has definite advantages for detection. For estimation of the real extension, CEUS may be helpful before intervention [152, 157–159]. Microabscesses (CDD 2a) and other small abscesses (up to 3 cm) can be treated successfully with antibiotics alone [125, 146, 149, 160–162]. For large abscesses (>3 cm) percutaneous drainage combined with antibiotics is the first choice and can significantly reduce the risk of death compared to patients undergoing acute surgery [160]. In borderline abscess, single puncture (or repeated puncture) with aspiration may be sufficient, while drainage with small catheters (7–10 Ch) is more effective in larger abscesses [163–165]. Percutaneous drainage can be performed with ultrasound or CT guidance. If visible by sonography and technically feasible, ultrasound guidance allows real-time control of the puncture [158]. Drains are flushed several times daily and may be removed after imaging control when purulent production has ceased [149]. Injecting an ultrasound contrast agent (SonoVue, some drops diluted in saline) into the cavity through a needle or catheter can

prove communication with the bowel lumen or display complex abscess systems [159, 166].

STATEMENT 6

Ultrasound-guided puncture/drainage is the first-line option in the therapy of abscesses larger than 3 cm.

Consensus levels of agreement: A+ 13/17; A- 3/17; D- 1/17

STATEMENT 7

Drainage of diverticular abscesses using the trocar technique (single step) is easy to perform and is usually successful.

Consensus levels of agreement: A+ 16/17; A- 1/17

STATEMENT 8

CEUS before intervention may be helpful to demonstrate the real extension of the abscess.

Consensus levels of agreement: A+ 14/18; A- 1/18; I 2/18; D- 1/18

3.8. Comparison of GIUS with other imaging methods

Overall, there are a limited number of published studies reporting the direct comparison of different imaging procedures, considering the large number of affected patients. Two systematic reviews and meta-analyses demonstrated a similar accuracy of CT and ultrasound for the diagnosis of acute diverticulitis [142, 144] (► **Table 3**).

In both meta-analyses and most head-to-head studies, ultrasound and CT were comparable with respect to the diagnosis of diverticulitis and were superior to other modalities. CT had the advantage of higher specificity and the ability to identify alternative diagnoses [144]. The role of MRI in diagnosing acute diverticulitis is not yet clear and it is not recommended as a first-line diagnostic procedure [128, 144]. Studies comparing CT staging with intraoperative and histologic findings raise doubts as to whether CT is really the “gold standard”. In phlegmonous diverticulitis (CDD 1b; Hinchey IIa), CT resulted in overstaging in 33 % of the patients [167]. Another com-

parison to surgery revealed considerable inaccuracy of CT in complicated diverticulitis: patients with Hinchey type III (purulent peritonitis) were understaged as Hinchey type I or II [168].

Similar studies between ultrasound and intraoperative findings are still lacking. In addition, there is only minimal data regarding ultrasound in major complications, such as distant mesenteric and pelvic abscesses or free perforation.

However, as with any artform or advanced skill, there is a large learning curve. It must be clear that little experience with GIUS inevitably yields unsatisfactory results and it has been shown that less than 500 completed examinations is insufficient [169, 170].

STATEMENT 9

GIUS and CT have proved to have similar sensitivity and specificity in the assessment of acute diverticulitis.

Consensus levels of agreement: A+ 14/18; A- 2/18; D- 1/18; D+ 1/18

3.9. Diagnostic strategy

Current guidelines suggest that the diagnosis in all patients with a clinical suspicion of acute diverticulitis must be confirmed by imaging on admission. As treatment strategies have become less aggressive and more tailored to the stage of diverticulitis, accurate staging of the disease has become increasingly important [127, 171, 172]. Due to the similar sensitivity and specificity of US and CT, EFSUMB recommends GIUS as the first-line imaging modality in suspected acute diverticulitis. Common advantages are bedside availability, low costs and the absence of radiation and contrast-induced nephropathy. Especially in cases of uncomplicated diverticulitis, GIUS is the only imaging method needed in acute assessment. If there is no evidence of early and significant clinical improvement, a “second look” 72 hours later may be helpful to rule out the need for intervention or surgery [170]. This second assessment can easily be done by GIUS in most cases.

CT may work as a backup after inconclusive or negative US examinations and has particular advantages for disease located in the distal sigmoid, inflammation deep in the small pelvis or insufficient US scanning conditions (e. g. in obesity). Additional CT may be helpful in planning drainage or immediate surgery in complicated cases. This step-up-approach (ultrasound first and CT only in case of a negative or inconclusive ultrasound examination) has proven to yield the best accuracy [126, 169, 173]. Ultrasound first has been incorporated in more and more European guidelines [124, 125, 128, 174]. Advantages in ultrasound technology and specific training in GIUS (e. g. in emergency medicine) will even strengthen this position in the coming years.

Conflict of Interest

Speaker honoraria, Pentax Medical Singapore Ltd
Consulting/Advisory board, Mediglobe Corporation GmbH
Congress participation support, Hitachi Medical Systems UK
Speaker honoraria, Abbvie, Janssen, Takeda
Speaker honoraria, Bracco, Hitachi, GE, Mindray, Supersonic, Pentax, Olympus, Fuji,

► **Table 3** Comparison between GIUS, CT and MRI in two meta-analyses [142, 144].

method	summary sensitivity	summary specificity	metaanalysis
US	92 %	90 %	Lameris 2008
	90 %	90 %	Andeweg 2014
CT	94 %	99 %	Lameris 2008
	95 %	96 %	Andeweg 2014
MRI	–	–	Lameris 2008
	98 %	70 – 78 %	Andeweg 2014

Boston Scientific, AbbVie, Falk Foundation, Novartis, Roche; Advisory Board Member, Hitachi, Mindray, Siemens; Research grant, GE Mindray, SuperSonic
 Speaker honoraria, AbbVie, Bracco, Almirall, GE Healthcare, Takeda AS, Meda AS, Ferring AS, Allega
 Consultant fee Bracco, GE Healthcare, Takeda and Samsung
 Speaker honoraria, Abbvie, Falk Foundation, Ferring, Janssen-Cilag, MSD, Pfizer, Takeda;
 Advisory Board/Consultant fee: Abbvie, Celgene, Janssen-Cilag, MSD, Takeda
 Speaker honoraria, Abbvie, Alfa Sigma, Janssen-Cilag; Advisory Board/Consultant fee, Allergan, Novartis, Takeda, THD
 Speaker honoraria, Falk Foundation; Research grant, GE Healthcare
 Speaker honoraria, Meda AS, Ferring pharmaceuticals, Takeda
 Speaker honoraria, Philips, GE, Canon; Advisory Board Member, Siemens; Congress participation support, Siemens
 Speaker honoraria Bracco, Toshiba. Advisory board member Bracco.
 Education support Philips. Technical consultancy Philips, BK

The following members declared no conflicts of interest:

Klaus Dirks, Trygve Hausken, Antony Higginson, Alois Hollerweger, Nadia Palotta, Tomás Ripollés, Laura Romanini, Carla Serra

References

[1] Nylund K, Maconi G, Hollerweger A et al. EFSUMB Recommendations and Guidelines for Gastrointestinal Ultrasound. *Ultraschall in Med* 2017; 38: e1 – e15. doi:10.1055/s-0042-115853

[2] Maconi G, Nylund K, Ripolles T et al. EFSUMB Recommendations and Clinical Guidelines for Intestinal Ultrasound (GIUS) in Inflammatory Bowel Diseases. *Ultraschall in Med* 2018; 39: 304 – 317. doi:10.1055/s-0043-125329

[3] Ferris M, Quan S, Kaplan BS et al. The Global Incidence of Appendicitis: A Systematic Review of Population-based Studies. *Ann Surg* 2017; 266: 237 – 241. doi:10.1097/SLA.0000000000002188

[4] Bhangu A, Søreide K, Di Saverio S et al. Acute appendicitis: modern understanding of pathogenesis, diagnosis, and management. *The Lancet* 2015; 386: 1278 – 1287. doi:10.1016/s0140-6736(15)00275-5

[5] Puylaert JB. Acute appendicitis: US evaluation using graded compression. *Radiology* 1986; 158: 355 – 360. doi:10.1148/radiology.158.2.2934762

[6] Shirah BH, Shirah HA, Alhaidari WA et al. The role of preoperative graded compression ultrasound in detecting acute appendicitis and influencing the negative appendectomy rate. *Abdom Radiol (NY)* 2017; 42: 109 – 114. doi:10.1007/s00261-016-0862-0

[7] van Randen A, Lameris W, van Es HW et al. A comparison of the accuracy of ultrasound and computed tomography in common diagnoses causing acute abdominal pain. *Eur Radiol* 2011; 21: 1535 – 1545. doi:10.1007/s00330-011-2087-5

[8] Nordin AB, Sales S, Nielsen JW et al. Standardized ultrasound templates for diagnosing appendicitis reduce annual imaging costs. *The Journal of surgical research* 2018; 221: 77 – 83. doi:10.1016/j.jss.2017.07.002

[9] Lahaye MJ, Lambregts DM, Mutsaers E et al. Mandatory imaging cuts costs and reduces the rate of unnecessary surgeries in the diagnostic work-up of patients suspected of having appendicitis. *Eur Radiol* 2015; 25: 1464 – 1470. doi:10.1007/s00330-014-3531-0

[10] D'Souza N, Marsden M, Bottomley S et al. Cost-effectiveness of routine imaging of suspected appendicitis. *Ann R Coll Surg Engl* 2018; 100: 47 – 51. doi:10.1308/rcsann.2017.0132

[11] Xu Y, Jeffrey RB, Chang ST et al. Sonographic Differentiation of Complicated From Uncomplicated Appendicitis: Implications for Antibiotics-First Therapy. *J Ultrasound Med* 2017; 36: 269 – 277. doi:10.7863/ultra.16.03109

[12] Leeuwenburgh MM, Wiezer MJ, Wiarda BM et al. Accuracy of MRI compared with ultrasound imaging and selective use of CT to discriminate simple from perforated appendicitis. *The British journal of surgery* 2014; 101: e147 – e155. doi:10.1002/bjs.9350

[13] Atema JJ, van Rossem CC, Leeuwenburgh MM et al. Scoring system to distinguish uncomplicated from complicated acute appendicitis. *Br J Surg* 2015; 102: 979 – 990. doi:10.1002/bjs.9835

[14] Quigley AJ, Stafrace S. Ultrasound assessment of acute appendicitis in paediatric patients: methodology and pictorial overview of findings seen. *Insights Imaging* 2013; 4: 741 – 751. doi:10.1007/s13244-013-0275-3

[15] Hollerweger A. Acute appendicitis: sonographic evaluation. *Ultraschall in Med* 2006; 27: 412 – 426; quiz 427-432. doi:10.1055/s-2006-927118-2

[16] Chang ST, Jeffrey RB, Olcott EW. Three-step sequential positioning algorithm during sonographic evaluation for appendicitis increases appendiceal visualization rate and reduces CT use. *Am J Roentgenol* 2014; 203: 1006 – 1012. doi:10.2214/Am J Roentgenol.13.12334

[17] Lee JH, Jeong YK, Park KB et al. Operator-dependent techniques for graded compression sonography to detect the appendix and diagnose acute appendicitis. *Am J Roentgenol* 2005; 184: 91 – 97. doi:10.2214/ajr.184.1.01840091

[18] Schreiber-Dietrich D, Chiorean L, Cui XW et al. Particularities of Crohn's disease in pediatric patients: current status and perspectives regarding imaging modalities. *Expert Rev Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2015; 9: 1313 – 1325. doi:10.1586/17474124.2015.1083420

[19] Chiorean L, Schreiber-Dietrich D, Braden B et al. Ultrasonographic imaging of inflammatory bowel disease in pediatric patients. *World J Gastroenterol* 2015; 21: 5231 – 5241. doi:10.3748/wjg.v21.i17.5231

[20] Yabunaka K, Katsuda T, Sanada S et al. Sonographic appearance of the normal appendix in adults. *J Ultrasound Med* 2007; 26: 37 – 43; quiz 45–36

[21] Hahn H, Macdonald E, Steinborn M. Sonographic detection of normal appendix in children and adolescents. *Ultraschall in Med* 2008; 29: 281 – 285. doi:10.1055/s-2008-1027322

[22] Rettenbacher T, Hollerweger A, Macheiner P et al. Ultrasonography of the normal vermiform appendix. *Ultraschall in Med* 1997; 18: 139 – 142. doi:10.1055/s-2007-1000410

[23] Gongidi P, Bellah RD. Ultrasound of the pediatric appendix. *Pediatr Radiol* 2017; 47: 1091 – 1100. doi:10.1007/s00247-017-3928-4

[24] Rioux M. Sonographic detection of the normal and abnormal appendix. *Am J Roentgenol* 1992; 158: 773 – 778. doi:10.2214/ajr.158.4.1546592

[25] Sivit CJ. Diagnosis of acute appendicitis in children: spectrum of sonographic findings. *Am J Roentgenol* 1993; 161: 147 – 152. doi:10.2214/ajr.161.1.8517294

[26] Simonovsky V. Sonographic detection of normal and abnormal appendix. *Clin Radiol* 1999; 54: 533 – 539

[27] Rettenbacher T, Hollerweger A, Macheiner P et al. Outer diameter of the vermiform appendix as a sign of acute appendicitis: evaluation at US. *Radiology* 2001; 218: 757 – 762. doi:10.1148/radiology.218.3.r01fe20757

[28] Jeffrey RB Jr, Laing FC, Townsend RR. Acute appendicitis: sonographic criteria based on 250 cases. *Radiology* 1988; 167: 327 – 329. doi:10.1148/radiology.167.2.3282253

[29] Birnbaum BA, Jeffrey RB Jr. CT and sonographic evaluation of acute right lower quadrant abdominal pain. *Am J Roentgenol* 1998; 170: 361 – 371. doi:10.2214/ajr.170.2.9456947

[30] Summa M, Perrone F, Priora F et al. Integrated clinical-ultrasonographic diagnosis in acute appendicitis. *J Ultrasound* 2007; 10: 175 – 178. doi:10.1016/j.jus.2007.09.004

[31] Trout AT, Towbin AJ, Fierke SR et al. Appendiceal diameter as a predictor of appendicitis in children: improved diagnosis with three diagnostic categories derived from a logistic predictive model. *Eur Radiol* 2015; 25: 2231 – 2238. doi:10.1007/s00330-015-3639-x

- [32] Chicaiza HP, Malia L, Mulvey CH et al. Revisiting the Appendiceal Diameter via Ultrasound for the Diagnosis of Acute Appendicitis. *Pediatric emergency care* 2017. doi:10.1097/pec.0000000000001278
- [33] Lee JH, Jeong YK, Hwang JC et al. Graded compression sonography with adjuvant use of a posterior manual compression technique in the sonographic diagnosis of acute appendicitis. *Am J Roentgenol* 2002; 178: 863–868. doi:10.2214/ajr.178.4.1780863
- [34] Rettenbacher T, Hollerweger A, Macheiner P et al. Presence or absence of gas in the appendix: additional criteria to rule out or confirm acute appendicitis—evaluation with US. *Radiology* 2000; 214: 183–187. doi:10.1148/radiology.214.1.r00ja20183
- [35] Rettenbacher T, Hollerweger A, Macheiner P et al. Ovoid shape of the vermiform appendix: a criterion to exclude acute appendicitis—evaluation with US. *Radiology* 2003; 226: 95–100. doi:10.1148/radiol.2261011496
- [36] Telesmanich ME, Orth RC, Zhang W et al. Searching for certainty: findings predictive of appendicitis in equivocal ultrasound exams. *Pediatr Radiol* 2016; 46: 1539–1545. doi:10.1007/s00247-016-3645-4
- [37] Lim HK, Lee WJ, Kim TH et al. Appendicitis: usefulness of color Doppler US. *Radiology* 1996; 201: 221–225. doi:10.1148/radiology.201.1.8816547
- [38] Xu Y, Jeffrey RB, Shin LK et al. Color Doppler Imaging of the Appendix: Criteria to Improve Specificity for Appendicitis in the Borderline-Size Appendix. *J Ultrasound Med* 2016; 35: 2129–2138. doi:10.7863/ultra.15.11064
- [39] Tulin-Silver S, Babb J, Pinkney L et al. The challenging ultrasound diagnosis of perforated appendicitis in children: constellations of sonographic findings improve specificity. *Pediatr Radiol* 2015; 45: 820–830. doi:10.1007/s00247-014-3232-5
- [40] Dietrich CF, Lembcke B, Jenssen C et al. Intestinal ultrasound in rare gastrointestinal diseases, update, part 1. *Ultraschall in Med* 2014; 35: 400–421. doi:10.1055/s-0034-1385154
- [41] Dietrich CF, Lembcke B, Jenssen C et al. Intestinal Ultrasound in Rare Gastrointestinal Diseases, Update, Part 2. *Ultraschall in Med* 2015; 36: 428–456. doi:10.1055/s-0034-1399730
- [42] Carpenter JL, Orth RC, Zhang W et al. Diagnostic Performance of US for Differentiating Perforated from Nonperforated Pediatric Appendicitis: A Prospective Cohort Study. *Radiology* 2017; 282: 835–841. doi:10.1148/radiol.2016160175
- [43] Blumfield E, Yang D, Grossman J. Scoring system for differentiating perforated and non-perforated pediatric appendicitis. *Emerg Radiol* 2017; 24: 547–554. doi:10.1007/s10140-017-1535-1
- [44] Avanesov M, Wiese NJ, Karul M et al. Diagnostic prediction of complicated appendicitis by combined clinical and radiological appendicitis severity index (APSI). *Eur Radiol* 2018. doi:10.1007/s00330-018-5339-9
- [45] Kim HY, Park JH, Lee YJ et al. Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of CT Features for Differentiating Complicated and Uncomplicated Appendicitis. *Radiology* 2018; 287: 104–115. doi:10.1148/radiol.2017171260
- [46] Gomes CA, Sartelli M, Di Saverio S et al. Acute appendicitis: proposal of a new comprehensive grading system based on clinical, imaging and laparoscopic findings. *World J Emerg Surg* 2015; 10: 60. doi:10.1186/s13017-015-0053-2
- [47] Huang L, Yin Y, Yang L et al. Comparison of Antibiotic Therapy and Appendectomy for Acute Uncomplicated Appendicitis in Children: A Meta-analysis. *JAMA Pediatr* 2017; 171: 426–434. doi:10.1001/jama-pediatrics.2017.0057
- [48] Mahida JB, Lodwick DL, Nacion KM et al. High failure rate of nonoperative management of acute appendicitis with an appendicolith in children. *J Pediatr Surg* 2016; 51: 908–911. doi:10.1016/j.jpedsurg.2016.02.056
- [49] Wiersma F, Toorenvliet BR, Bloem JL et al. US examination of the appendix in children with suspected appendicitis: the additional value of secondary signs. *Eur Radiol* 2009; 19: 455–461. doi:10.1007/s00330-008-1176-6
- [50] Estey A, Poonai N, Lim R. Appendix not seen: the predictive value of secondary inflammatory sonographic signs. *Pediatric emergency care* 2013; 29: 435–439. doi:10.1097/PEC.0b013e318289e8d5
- [51] Partain KN, Patel A, Travers C et al. Secondary signs may improve the diagnostic accuracy of equivocal ultrasounds for suspected appendicitis in children. *Journal of pediatric surgery* 2016; 51: 1655–1660. doi:10.1016/j.jpedsurg.2016.03.005
- [52] Damani N, Wilson SR. Nongynecologic applications of transvaginal US. *Radiographics: a review publication of the Radiological Society of North America, Inc* 1999. 19 Spec No: S179-200; quiz S265-176. doi:10.1148/radiographics.19.suppl_1.g99oc15s179
- [53] Lin W, Jeffrey RB, Trinh A et al. Anatomic Reasons for Failure to Visualize the Appendix With Graded Compression Sonography: Insights From Contemporaneous CT. *Am J Roentgenol* 2017; 209: W128–W138. doi:10.2214/Am J Roentgenol.17.18059
- [54] Hollerweger A. Sonographie der akuten Appendizitis. *Ultraschall in der Medizin – European Journal of Ultrasound* 2006; 27: 412–432. doi:10.1055/s-2006-927118
- [55] Poljak A, Jeffrey RB Jr, Kernberg ME. The gas-containing appendix: potential sonographic pitfall in the diagnosis of acute appendicitis. *J Ultrasound Med* 1991; 10: 625–628
- [56] Cobben LP, de Van Otterloo AM, Puylaert JB. Spontaneously resolving appendicitis: frequency and natural history in 60 patients. *Radiology* 2000; 215: 349–352. doi:10.1148/radiology.215.2.r00ma08349
- [57] Migraine S, Atri M, Bret PM et al. Spontaneously resolving acute appendicitis: clinical and sonographic documentation. *Radiology* 1997; 205: 55–58. doi:10.1148/radiology.205.1.9314962
- [58] Andersson RE. The natural history and traditional management of appendicitis revisited: spontaneous resolution and predominance of pre-hospital perforations imply that a correct diagnosis is more important than an early diagnosis. *World J Surg* 2007; 31: 86–92. doi:10.1007/s00268-006-0056-y
- [59] Kwon LM, Lee K, Min SK et al. Ultrasound features of secondary appendicitis in pediatric patients. *Ultrasonography (Seoul, Korea)* 2017. doi:10.14366/usg.17029
- [60] Puylaert JB. Mesenteric adenitis and acute terminal ileitis: US evaluation using graded compression. *Radiology* 1986; 161: 691–695. doi:10.1148/radiology.161.3.3538138
- [61] Puylaert JB. *Ultrasound of appendicitis and its differential diagnosis*. Berlin: Springer-Verlag; 1990
- [62] Jeffrey RB, Jain KA, Nghiem HV. Sonographic diagnosis of acute appendicitis: interpretive pitfalls. *Am J Roentgenol* 1994; 162: 55–59. doi:10.2214/ajr.162.1.8273690
- [63] Swischuk LE, John SD. Mesenteric adenitis-acute ileitis: a constellation of findings definable with ultrasound. *Emerg Radiol* 1998; 5: 210–218
- [64] van Breda Vriesman AC, Puylaert JB. Mimics of appendicitis: alternative nonsurgical diagnoses with sonography and CT. *Am J Roentgenol* 2006; 186: 1103–1112. doi:10.2214/Am J Roentgenol.05.0085
- [65] Puylaert JB, van der Werf SD, Ulrich C et al. Crohn disease of the ileocecal region: US visualization of the appendix. *Radiology* 1988; 166: 741–743. doi:10.1148/radiology.166.3.3277243
- [66] Ripolles T, Martinez-Perez MJ, Morote V et al. Diseases that simulate acute appendicitis on ultrasound. *The British journal of radiology* 1998; 71: 94–98. doi:10.1259/bjr.71.841.9534708
- [67] Ripolles T, Martinez MJ, Morote V et al. Appendiceal involvement in Crohn's disease: gray-scale sonography and color Doppler flow features. *Am J Roentgenol* 2006; 186: 1071–1078. doi:10.2214/Am J Roentgenol.04.1839
- [68] Becking WB, Puylaert JB, Feldberg MA et al. Appendiceal involvement in cecal carcinoma: demonstration by ultrasound. *Gastrointestinal radiology* 1989; 14: 170–172

- [69] Rioux M, Duchesne N, Langis P. Carcinoid tumor of the appendix: ultrasound findings in two cases. *J Clin Ultrasound* 1994; 22: 129–133
- [70] Ripolles T, Concepcion L, Martinez-Perez M] et al. Appendicular involvement in perforated sigmoid disease: US and CT findings. *Eur Radiol* 1999; 9: 697–700. doi:10.1007/s003300050735
- [71] Simonovsky V. Ultrasound in the differential diagnosis of appendicitis. *Clinical radiology* 1995; 50: 768–773
- [72] Dahabreh IJ, Adam GP, Halladay CW et al. AHRQ Comparative Effectiveness Reviews. In *Diagnosis of Right Lower Quadrant Pain and Suspected Acute Appendicitis*. Rockville (MD): Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (US). 2015
- [73] Benabbas R, Hanna M, Shah J et al. Diagnostic Accuracy of History, Physical Examination, Laboratory Tests, and Point-of-care Ultrasound for Pediatric Acute Appendicitis in the Emergency Department: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. *Academic emergency medicine: official journal of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine* 2017; 24: 523–551. doi:10.1111/acem.13181
- [74] Repplinger MD, Levy JF, Peethumongsin E et al. Systematic review and meta-analysis of the accuracy of MRI to diagnose appendicitis in the general population. *Journal of magnetic resonance imaging: JMIR* 2016; 43: 1346–1354. doi:10.1002/jmri.25115
- [75] Cundy TP, Gent R, Frauenfelder C et al. Benchmarking the value of ultrasound for acute appendicitis in children. *Journal of pediatric surgery* 2016; 51: 1939–1943. doi:10.1016/j.jpedsurg.2016.09.009
- [76] Dibble EH, Swenson DW, Cartagena C et al. Effectiveness of a Staged US and Unenhanced MR Imaging Algorithm in the Diagnosis of Pediatric Appendicitis. *Radiology* 2017. doi:10.1148/radiol.2017162755
- [77] Fallon SC, Orth RC, Guillerman RP et al. Development and validation of an ultrasound scoring system for children with suspected acute appendicitis. *Pediatr Radiol* 2015; 45: 1945–1952. doi:10.1007/s00247-015-3443-4
- [78] Zhang H, Liao M, Chen J et al. Ultrasound, computed tomography or magnetic resonance imaging – which is preferred for acute appendicitis in children? A Meta-analysis. *Pediatr Radiol* 2017; 47: 186–196. doi:10.1007/s00247-016-3727-3
- [79] Lofvenberg F, Salo M. Ultrasound for Appendicitis: Performance and Integration with Clinical Parameters. *BioMed research international* 2016; 2016: 5697692. doi:10.1155/2016/5697692
- [80] Mittal MK, Dayan PS, Macias CG et al. Performance of ultrasound in the diagnosis of appendicitis in children in a multicenter cohort. *Academic emergency medicine: official journal of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine* 2013; 20: 697–702. doi:10.1111/acem.12161
- [81] Lembcke B. Ultrasonography for acute appendicitis – the way it looks today. *Zeitschrift für Gastroenterologie* 2016; 54: 1151–1165. doi:10.1055/s-0042-116949
- [82] Keller C, Wang NE, Imler DL et al. Predictors of Nondiagnostic Ultrasound for Appendicitis. *The Journal of emergency medicine* 2017; 52: 318–323. doi:10.1016/j.jemermed.2016.07.101
- [83] Matthew Fields J, Davis J, Alsop C et al. Accuracy of Point-of-care Ultrasonography for Diagnosing Acute Appendicitis: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. *Academic emergency medicine: official journal of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine* 2017; 24: 1124–1136. doi:10.1111/acem.13212
- [84] Beltzer CR, Zischek C, Schmidt R et al. The Relevance of Surgeon-performed Ultrasound For the Detection of Acute Appendicitis: a Review of the Literature and a Practical Diagnostic Algorithm. *Zentralblatt für Chirurgie* 2017; 142: 395–403. doi:10.1055/s-0043-114414
- [85] Gungor F, Kilic T, Akyol KC et al. Diagnostic Value and Effect of Bedside Ultrasound in Acute Appendicitis in the Emergency Department. *Academic emergency medicine: official journal of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine* 2017; 24: 578–586. doi:10.1111/acem.13169
- [86] Dietrich CF, Goudie A, Chiorean L et al. Point of Care Ultrasound: A WFUMB Position Paper. *Ultrasound in medicine & biology* 2017; 43: 49–58. doi:10.1016/j.ultrasmedbio.2016.06.021
- [87] Di Saverio S, Birindelli A, Kelly MD et al. WSES Jerusalem guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of acute appendicitis. *World J Emerg Surg* 2016; 11: 34. doi:10.1186/s13017-016-0090-5
- [88] Parker L, Nazarian LN, Gingold EL et al. Cost and radiation savings of partial substitution of ultrasound for CT in appendicitis evaluation: a national projection. *Am J Roentgenol* 2014; 202: 124–135. doi:10.2214/Am J Roentgenol.12.9642
- [89] Mostbeck G, Adam EJ, Nielsen MB et al. How to diagnose acute appendicitis: ultrasound first. *Insights Imaging* 2016; 7: 255–263. doi:10.1007/s13244-016-0469-6
- [90] Debnath J, George RA, Ravikumar R. Imaging in acute appendicitis: What, when, and why? *Med J Armed Forces India* 2017; 73: 74–79. doi:10.1016/j.mjafi.2016.02.005
- [91] Rettenbacher T, Hollerweger A, Gritzmann N et al. Appendicitis: Should diagnostic imaging be performed if the clinical presentation is highly suggestive of the disease? *Gastroenterology* 2002; 123: 992–998. doi:10.1053/gast.2002.35956
- [92] van Rossem CC, Bolmers MD, Schreinemacher MH et al. Prospective nationwide outcome audit of surgery for suspected acute appendicitis. *The British journal of surgery* 2016; 103: 144–151. doi:10.1002/bjs.9964
- [93] Bolmers MD, van Rossem CC, Gorter RR et al. Imaging in pediatric appendicitis is key to a low normal appendix percentage: a national audit on the outcome of appendectomy for appendicitis in children. *Pediatr Surg Int* 2018; 34: 543–551. doi:10.1007/s00383-018-4244-2
- [94] Krishnamoorthi R, Ramarajan N, Wang NE et al. Effectiveness of a staged US and CT protocol for the diagnosis of pediatric appendicitis: reducing radiation exposure in the age of ALARA. *Radiology* 2011; 259: 231–239. doi:10.1148/radiol.10100984
- [95] Kotagal M, Richards MK, Flum DR et al. Use and accuracy of diagnostic imaging in the evaluation of pediatric appendicitis. *Journal of pediatric surgery* 2015; 50: 642–646. doi:10.1016/j.jpedsurg.2014.09.080
- [96] Atema JJ, Gans SL, Van Randen A et al. Comparison of Imaging Strategies with Conditional versus Immediate Contrast-Enhanced Computed Tomography in Patients with Clinical Suspicion of Acute Appendicitis. *Eur Radiol* 2015; 25: 2445–2452. doi:10.1007/s00330-015-3648-9
- [97] Ramarajan N, Krishnamoorthi R, Barth R et al. An interdisciplinary initiative to reduce radiation exposure: evaluation of appendicitis in a pediatric emergency department with clinical assessment supported by a staged ultrasound and computed tomography pathway. *Academic emergency medicine: official journal of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine* 2009; 16: 1258–1265. doi:10.1111/j.1553-2712.2009.00511.x
- [98] Kotagal M, Richards MK, Chapman T et al. Improving ultrasound quality to reduce computed tomography use in pediatric appendicitis: the Safe and Sound campaign. *American journal of surgery* 2015; 209: 896–900; discussion 900. doi:10.1016/j.amjsurg.2014.12.029
- [99] Leeuwenburgh MM, Lameris W, van Randen A et al. Optimizing imaging in suspected appendicitis (OPTIMAP-study): a multicenter diagnostic accuracy study of MRI in patients with suspected acute appendicitis. *Study Protocol. BMC Emerg Med* 2010; 10: 19. doi:10.1186/1471-227X-10-19
- [100] Reuvers JR, Rijbroek AA. Acute appendicitis: preference for second ultrasound instead of CT or MRI. *Nederlands tijdschrift voor geneeskunde* 2015; 160: A9480
- [101] Schuh S, Chan K, Langer JC et al. Properties of serial ultrasound clinical diagnostic pathway in suspected appendicitis and related computed tomography use. *Academic emergency medicine: official journal of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine* 2015; 22: 406–414. doi:10.1111/acem.12631
- [102] Gorter RR, Eker HH, Gorter-Stam MA et al. Diagnosis and management of acute appendicitis. *EAES consensus development conference* 2015. *Surg Endosc* 2016; 30: 4668–4690. doi:10.1007/s00464-016-5245-7

- [103] Ohle R, O'Reilly F, O'Brien KK et al. The Alvarado score for predicting acute appendicitis: a systematic review. *BMC medicine* 2011; 9: 139. doi:10.1186/1741-7015-9-139
- [104] Sammalkorpi HE, Leppaniemi A, Lantto E et al. Performance of imaging studies in patients with suspected appendicitis after stratification with adult appendicitis score. *World J Emerg Surg* 2017; 12: 6. doi:10.1186/s13017-017-0119-4
- [105] Ebell MH, Shinholser J. What are the most clinically useful cutoffs for the Alvarado and Pediatric Appendicitis Scores? A systematic review. *Annals of emergency medicine* 2014; 64: 365–372.e362. doi:10.1016/j.annemergmed.2014.02.025
- [106] Alter SM, Walsh B, Lenehan PJ et al. Ultrasound for Diagnosis of Appendicitis in a Community Hospital Emergency Department has a High Rate of Nondiagnostic Studies. *The Journal of emergency medicine* 2017; 52: 833–838. doi:10.1016/j.jemermed.2017.01.003
- [107] Cohen B, Bowling J, Midulla P et al. The non-diagnostic ultrasound in appendicitis: is a non-visualized appendix the same as a negative study? *Journal of pediatric surgery* 2015; 50: 923–927. doi:10.1016/j.jpedsurg.2015.03.012
- [108] Larson DB, Trout AT, Fierke SR et al. Improvement in diagnostic accuracy of ultrasound of the pediatric appendix through the use of equivocal interpretive categories. *Am J Roentgenol* 2015; 204: 849–856. doi:10.2214/AmJRoentgenol.14.13026
- [109] Topin F, Thierry AL, Catreaux O et al. Diagnostic Accuracy of Emergency Physician-Performed Ultrasound for Acute Appendicitis in a Remote Location. *The Journal of emergency medicine* 2016; 50: 859–867. doi:10.1016/j.jemermed.2015.06.085
- [110] Carroll PJ, Gibson D, El-Faedy O et al. Surgeon-performed ultrasound at the bedside for the detection of appendicitis and gallstones: systematic review and meta-analysis. *Am J Surg* 2013; 205: 102–108. doi:10.1016/j.amjsurg.2012.02.017
- [111] Fox JC, Solley M, Anderson CL et al. Prospective evaluation of emergency physician performed bedside ultrasound to detect acute appendicitis. *European journal of emergency medicine: official journal of the European Society for Emergency Medicine* 2008; 15: 80–85. doi:10.1097/MEJ.0b013e328270361a
- [112] Kim J, Kim K, Kim J et al. The learning curve in diagnosing acute appendicitis with emergency sonography among novice emergency medicine residents. *J Clin Ultrasound* 2018. doi:10.1002/jcu.22577
- [113] Nielsen JW, Boomer L, Kurtovic K et al. Reducing computed tomography scans for appendicitis by introduction of a standardized and validated ultrasonography report template. *Journal of pediatric surgery* 2015; 50: 144–148. doi:10.1016/j.jpedsurg.2014.10.033
- [114] Partain KN, Patel AU, Travers C et al. Improving ultrasound for appendicitis through standardized reporting of secondary signs. *Journal of pediatric surgery* 2017; 52: 1273–1279. doi:10.1016/j.jpedsurg.2016.11.045
- [115] Anderson KT, Bartz-Kurycki M, Austin MT et al. Approaching zero: Implications of a computed tomography reduction program for pediatric appendicitis evaluation. *Journal of pediatric surgery* 2017; 52: 1909–1915. doi:10.1016/j.jpedsurg.2017.08.050
- [116] Godwin BD, Simianu VV, Drake FT et al. Is there a need to standardize reporting terminology in appendicitis? *Ultrasound Q* 2015; 31: 92–94. doi:10.1097/RUQ.000000000000123
- [117] Atkinson NSS, Bryant RV, Dong Y et al. How to perform gastrointestinal ultrasound: Anatomy and normal findings. *World J Gastroenterol* 2017; 23: 6931–6941. doi:10.3748/wjg.v23.i38.6931
- [118] Atkinson NS, Bryant RV, Dong Y et al. WFUMB Position Paper. Learning Gastrointestinal Ultrasound: Theory and Practice. *Ultrasound Med Biol* 2016; 42: 2732–2742. doi:10.1016/j.ultrasmedbio.2016.08.026
- [119] Wheat CL, Strate LL. Trends in Hospitalization for Diverticulitis and Diverticular Bleeding in the United States From 2000 to 2010. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2016; 14: 96–103.e101. doi:10.1016/j.cgh.2015.03.030
- [120] Peery AF, Barrett PR, Park D et al. A high-fiber diet does not protect against asymptomatic diverticulosis. *Gastroenterology* 2012; 142: 266–272.e261. doi:10.1053/j.gastro.2011.10.035
- [121] Loffeld RJ. Long-term follow-up and development of diverticulitis in patients diagnosed with diverticulosis of the colon. *Int J Colorectal Dis* 2016; 31: 15–17. doi:10.1007/s00384-015-2397-1
- [122] Andeweg CS, Knobben L, Hendriks JC et al. How to diagnose acute left-sided colonic diverticulitis: proposal for a clinical scoring system. *Ann Surg* 2011; 253: 940–946. doi:10.1097/SLA.0b013e3182113614
- [123] Lameris W, van Randen A, van Gulik TM et al. A clinical decision rule to establish the diagnosis of acute diverticulitis at the emergency department. *Dis Colon Rectum* 2010; 53: 896–904. doi:10.1007/DCR.0b013e3181d98d86
- [124] Sartelli M, Catena F, Ansaloni L et al. WSES Guidelines for the management of acute left sided colonic diverticulitis in the emergency setting. *World J Emerg Surg* 2016; 11: 37. doi:10.1186/s13017-016-0095-0
- [125] Leifeld L, Germer CT, Bohm S et al. S2k guidelines diverticular disease/diverticulitis. *Zeitschrift fur Gastroenterologie* 2014; 52: 663–710. doi:10.1055/s-0034-1366692
- [126] Andeweg CS, Mulder IM, Felt-Bersma RJ et al. Guidelines of diagnostics and treatment of acute left-sided colonic diverticulitis. *Digestive surgery* 2013; 30: 278–292. doi:10.1159/000354035
- [127] Boermeester MA, Humes DJ, Velmahos GC et al. Contemporary Review of Risk-Stratified Management in Acute Uncomplicated and Complicated Diverticulitis. *World journal of surgery* 2016; 40: 2537–2545. doi:10.1007/s00268-016-3560-8
- [128] Galetin T, Galetin A, Vestweber KH et al. Systematic review and comparison of national and international guidelines on diverticular disease. *Int J Colorectal Dis* 2018; 33: 261–272. doi:10.1007/s00384-017-2960-z
- [129] Hollerweger A, Macheiner P, Gritzmann N. Acute left lower quadrant abdominal pain: ultrasonographic differential diagnosis. *Ultraschall in Med* 2003; 24: 7–16. doi:10.1055/s-2003-37410
- [130] Puylaert JB. Ultrasound of colon diverticulitis. *Dig Dis* 2012; 30: 56–59. doi:10.1159/000336620
- [131] Klarenbeek BR, de Korte N, van der Peet DL et al. Review of current classifications for diverticular disease and a translation into clinical practice. *International journal of colorectal disease* 2012; 27: 207–214. doi:10.1007/s00384-011-1314-5
- [132] Hughes ES, Cuthbertson AM, Carden AB. The surgical management of acute diverticulitis. *The Medical journal of Australia* 1963; 50: 780–782
- [133] Hinchey EJ, Schaal PG, Richards GK. Treatment of perforated diverticular disease of the colon. *Advances in surgery* 1978; 12: 85–109
- [134] Ambrosetti P, Becker C, Terrier F. Colonic diverticulitis: impact of imaging on surgical management – a prospective study of 542 patients. *Eur Radiol* 2002; 12: 1145–1149. doi:10.1007/s00330-001-1143-y
- [135] Schwerk WB, Schwarz S, Rothmund M. Sonography in acute colonic diverticulitis. A prospective study. *Diseases of the colon and rectum* 1992; 35: 1077–1084
- [136] Hollerweger A, Macheiner P, Rettenbacher T et al. Colonic diverticulitis: diagnostic value and appearance of inflamed diverticula-sonographic evaluation. *Eur Radiol* 2001; 11: 1956–1963. doi:10.1007/s003300100942
- [137] Lembcke B. Diagnosis, Differential Diagnoses, and Classification of Diverticular Disease. *Viszeralmedizin* 2015; 31: 95–102. doi:10.1159/000380833
- [138] Pustelnik D, Elsholtz FHJ, Bojarski C et al. The CDD System in Computed Tomographic Diagnosis of Diverticular Disease. *Rofo* 2017; 189: 740–747. doi:10.1055/s-0043-110770
- [139] Maconi G, Carmagnola S, Guzowski T. Intestinal Ultrasonography in the Diagnosis and Management of Colonic Diverticular Disease. *Jour-*

nal of clinical gastroenterology 2016; 50 (Suppl. 1): S20–S22. doi:10.1097/mcg.0000000000000657

- [140] Valentino M, Serra C, Ansaloni L et al. Sonographic features of acute colonic diverticulitis. *Journal of clinical ultrasound: JCU* 2009; 37: 457–463. doi:10.1002/jcu.20619
- [141] Hollerweger A, Dirks K, Szopinski K. Transabdominal ultrasound of the gastrointestinal tract. In: Dietrich CF, ed; EFSUMB – European Course Book. EFSUMB; 2015: 1–56
- [142] Lameris W, van Randen A, Bipat S et al. Graded compression ultrasonography and computed tomography in acute colonic diverticulitis: meta-analysis of test accuracy. *Eur Radiol* 2008; 18: 2498–2511. doi:10.1007/s00330-008-1018-6
- [143] Liljegren G, Chabok A, Wickbom M et al. Acute colonic diverticulitis: a systematic review of diagnostic accuracy. *Colorectal disease: the official journal of the Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland* 2007; 9: 480–488. doi:10.1111/j.1463-1318.2007.01238.x
- [144] Andeweg CS, Wegdam JA, Groenewoud J et al. Toward an evidence-based step-up approach in diagnosing diverticulitis. *Scandinavian journal of gastroenterology* 2014; 49: 775–784. doi:10.3109/00365521.2014.908475
- [145] Farag Soliman M, Wustner M, Sturm J et al. Primary diagnostics of acute diverticulitis of the sigmoid. *Ultraschall in Med* 2004; 25: 342–347. doi:10.1055/s-2004-813381
- [146] Cuomo R, Barbara G, Pace F et al. Italian consensus conference for colonic diverticulosis and diverticular disease. *United European gastroenterology journal* 2014; 2: 413–442. doi:10.1177/2050640614547068
- [147] Helou N, Abdalkader M, Abu-Rustum RS. Sonography: first-line modality in the diagnosis of acute colonic diverticulitis? *J Ultrasound Med* 2013; 32: 1689–1694. doi:10.7863/ultra.32.10.1689
- [148] King WC, Shuaib W, Vijayarath A et al. Benefits of sonography in diagnosing suspected uncomplicated acute diverticulitis. *J Ultrasound Med* 2015; 34: 53–58. doi:10.7863/ultra.34.1.53
- [149] Andersen JC, Bundgaard L, Elbrond H et al. Danish national guidelines for treatment of diverticular disease. *Danish medical journal* 2012; 59: C4453
- [150] Flor N, Maconi G, Cornalba G et al. The Current Role of Radiologic and Endoscopic Imaging in the Diagnosis and Follow-Up of Colonic Diverticular Disease. *Am J Roentgenol* 2016; 207: 15–24. doi:10.2214/ajr.16.16138
- [151] Onur MR, Akpınar E, Karaosmanoglu AD et al. Diverticulitis: a comprehensive review with usual and unusual complications. *Insights Imaging* 2017; 8: 19–27. doi:10.1007/s13244-016-0532-3
- [152] Ripolles T, Martinez-Perez MJ, Paredes JM et al. Contrast-enhanced ultrasound in the differentiation between phlegmon and abscess in Crohn's disease and other abdominal conditions. *European journal of radiology* 2013; 82: e525–531. doi:10.1016/j.ejrad.2013.05.043
- [153] Nurnberg D, Mauch M, Spengler J et al. Sonographical diagnosis of pneumoretroperitoneum as a result of retroperitoneal perforation. *Ultraschall in Med* 2007; 28: 612–621. doi:10.1055/s-2007-963216
- [154] Chou YH, Chiou HJ, Tiu CM et al. Sonography of acute right side colonic diverticulitis. *American journal of surgery* 2001; 181: 122–127
- [155] Hollerweger A, Rettenbacher T, Macheiner P et al. Sigmoid diverticulitis: value of transrectal sonography in addition to transabdominal sonography. *Am J Roentgenol* 2000; 175: 1155–1160. doi:10.2214/ajr.175.4.1751155
- [156] Schiller VL, Schreiber L, Seaton C et al. Transvaginal sonographic diagnosis of sigmoid diverticulitis. *Abdom Imaging* 1995; 20: 253–255
- [157] Claudon M, Dietrich CF, Choi BI et al. Guidelines and good clinical practice recommendations for Contrast Enhanced Ultrasound (CEUS) in the liver – update 2012: A WFUMB-EFSUMB initiative in cooperation with representatives of AFSUMB, AIUM, ASUM, FLAUS and ICUS. *Ultrasound in medicine & biology* 2013; 39: 187–210. doi:10.1016/j.ultrasmedbio.2012.09.002
- [158] Dietrich CF, Lorentzen T, Appelbaum L et al. EFSUMB Guidelines on Interventional Ultrasound (INVUS), Part III – Abdominal Treatment Procedures (Long Version). *Ultraschall in Med* 2016; 37: E1–E32. doi:10.1055/s-0035-1553917
- [159] Ignee A, Jenssen C, Cui XW et al. Intracavitary contrast-enhanced ultrasound in abscess drainage—feasibility and clinical value. *Scandinavian journal of gastroenterology* 2016; 51: 41–47. doi:10.3109/00365521.2015.1066423
- [160] Gregersen R, Mortensen LQ, Burcharth J et al. Treatment of patients with acute colonic diverticulitis complicated by abscess formation: A systematic review. *Int J Surg* 2016; 35: 201–208. doi:10.1016/j.ijsu.2016.10.006
- [161] Siewert B, Tye G, Kruskal J et al. Impact of CT-guided drainage in the treatment of diverticular abscesses: size matters. *Am J Roentgenol* 2006; 186: 680–686. doi:10.2214/Am J Roentgenol.04.1708
- [162] Guidelines WGOP. World Gastroenterology Organisation Guideline 2007. 2007
- [163] Cai YL, Xiong XZ, Lu J et al. Percutaneous needle aspiration versus catheter drainage in the management of liver abscess: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *HPB: the official journal of the International Hepato Pancreato Biliary Association* 2015; 17: 195–201. doi:10.1111/hpb.12332
- [164] Lorentzen T, Nolsoe C, Skjoldbye B. Ultrasound-guided drainage of deep pelvic abscesses: experience with 33 cases. *Ultrasound Med Biol* 2011; 37: 723–728. doi:10.1016/j.ultrasmedbio.2011.02.004
- [165] Brandt D, Gervaz P, Durmishi Y et al. Percutaneous CT scan-guided drainage vs. antibiotherapy alone for Hinchey II diverticulitis: a case-control study. *Diseases of the colon and rectum* 2006; 49: 1533–1538. doi:10.1007/s10350-006-0613-3
- [166] Ignee A, Schuessler G, Cui XW et al. Intracavitary contrast medium ultrasound – different applications, a review of the literature and future prospects. *Ultraschall in Med* 2013; 34: 504–525; quiz 526-508. doi:10.1055/s-0033-1335546
- [167] Ritz JP, Lehmann KS, Loddenkemper C et al. Preoperative CT staging in sigmoid diverticulitis—does it correlate with intraoperative and histological findings? *Langenbecks Arch Surg* 2010; 395: 1009–1015. doi:10.1007/s00423-010-0609-2
- [168] Gielens MP, Mulder IM, van der Harst E et al. Preoperative staging of perforated diverticulitis by computed tomography scanning. *Techniques in coloproctology* 2012; 16: 363–368. doi:10.1007/s10151-012-0853-2
- [169] van Randen A, Lameris W, van Es HW et al. A comparison of the accuracy of ultrasound and computed tomography in common diagnoses causing acute abdominal pain. *Eur Radiol* 2011; 21: 1535–1545. doi:10.1007/s00330-011-2087-5
- [170] Caputo P, Rovagnati M, Carzaniga PL. Is it possible to limit the use of CT scanning in acute diverticular disease without compromising outcomes? A preliminary experience. *Annali italiani di chirurgia* 2015; 86: 51–55
- [171] van Dijk ST, Bos K, de Boer MGJ et al. A systematic review and meta-analysis of outpatient treatment for acute diverticulitis. *Int J Colorectal Dis* 2018; 33: 505–512. doi:10.1007/s00384-018-3015-9
- [172] Lembcke B. Ultrasonography in acute diverticulitis – credit where credit is due. *Zeitschrift fur Gastroenterologie* 2016; 54: 47–57. doi:10.1055/s-0041-108204
- [173] Lameris W, van Randen A, van Es HW et al. Imaging strategies for detection of urgent conditions in patients with acute abdominal pain: diagnostic accuracy study. *Bmj* 2009; 338: b2431. doi:10.1136/bmj.b2431
- [174] Lembcke BJ, Strobel D, Dirks K et al. Statement of the section internal medicine of the DEGUM – ultrasound obtains pole position for clinical imaging in acute diverticulitis. *Ultraschall in Med* 2015; 36: 191–195