***CHILDREN’S NATIONAL MEDICAL CENTER***

***DEPARTMENT OF RADIOLOGY***

***ULTRASOUND PROTOCOL***

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**Issue Date: 01/9/2014 Policy: APPENDIX**

**Last Revision Date: 1/8/2015 Approved by: DBulas**

1. **Indications for a pediatric appendix study include but are not limited to:**

Guarding with right lower quadrant pain; Rebound tenderness in the right lower quadrant;

Patient presenting with a fever, nausea and vomiting;

1. **Patient Prep:**

No patient prep required for this exam.

1. **Protocol:**

* Utilizing a high frequency linear transducer with a graded compression technique, evaluation of the appendix can be performed.
* Graded compression technique is performed at site of tenderness. Can begin at the hepatic flexure and trace down to the cecum.
* Documentation of an abnormal and normal appendix should include; measurement of the outer wall diameter, compressibility, echogenicity and presence of appendicolith.
* Outer wall diameter of the appendix measures greater than 6mm is considered abnormal.
* Color Doppler evaluation of the appendix for hyperemia.
* Evaluate the right lower quadrant and pelvis for free fluid.
* In addition to evaluating the appendix, evaluation of the bladder, bowel and right upper quadrant/ Morrisons pouch.

1. **References:**

ACR, SPR, AIUM. (2012). *Aium practice guideline for the performance of an*. Manuscript submitted for publication, American College of Radiology, Retrieved from http://www.aium.org/resources/guidelines/abdominal.pdf