

# ULTRASOUND PROTOCOLS



Reviewed 10/30/20

## Appendix Ultrasound Protocol Guideline

<b>Indication</b>	RLQ Pain
<b>Prep</b>	Patient Supine
<b>Special Instruction</b>	<p><b>If appendix is not visualized:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Take representative images in longitudinal and transverse at the level of the cecum and any area of focal tenderness. Use graded pressure to attempt to displace bowel gas.</li><li>• Note: Non-visualization of appendix does not exclude appendicitis</li></ul> <p><b>If appendix is visualized:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Take pictures of the appendix in transverse with and without compression</li><li>• Image appendix with color Doppler</li><li>• Take AP measurements of sagittal appendix from outer-to-outer wall (&gt; 8mm = abnormal)</li></ul>
<b>Procedure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use a high frequency linear probe of 5 MHz or greater.</li><li>• Perform graded compression of the RLQ from the umbilicus to pelvis in the transverse plane.</li><li>• Document cecum and terminal ileum if possible.</li><li>• The appendix is located at the end of the cecum and can be variable in lie. It can be anterior, medial, or retrocecal. It is a tubular structure measuring less than 7mm. in diameter when normal.</li></ul>
<b>Evaluation Criteria</b>	<p><b>Appendicitis:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 7-8 mm diameter - borderline exam</li><li>• 8mm or greater - appendicitis</li><li>• Will see "bull's eye" sign in transverse</li><li>• Usually no fluid within lumen</li><li>• Reproducible, non-compressible, sausage shaped structure without peristalsis</li></ul> <p><b>Appendicolith –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• usually calcified, shadowing structure within appendix</li></ul>