

Safety and efficacy of antibiotics compared with appendicectomy for treatment of uncomplicated acute appendicitis: meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials

Krishna K Verachan, research fellow,¹ Keith R Neal, professor,^{1,2} and Dileep N Lobo, professor^{3,4}

Table 1

Definitions of outcome measures

Outcome measure	Antibiotic treatment	Appendicectomy
Complications	Perforated/gangrenous appendicitis or peritonitis and wound infection (in patients who failed antibiotic treatment and had appendicectomy subsequently)	Perforated appendicitis or peritonitis and wound infection
Length of primary hospital stay	Number of days of inpatient admission for patients who were treated with antibiotics following admission and discharged with oral antibiotics	Number of days of inpatient admission for patients who had appendicectomy and were discharged with further follow-up
Readmissions	Patients who were readmitted for operations or antibiotic related problems, such as diarrhoea, and including wound infections after surgery for failed antibiotic treatment; also those who were readmitted for recurrent symptoms	Patients who were readmitted for postoperative complications such as intra-abdominal collections, adhesive obstruction, or wound infections
Treatment efficacy	Patients who were successfully treated with antibiotics only and had none of the following: failure of antibiotic treatment or recurrence of symptoms needing appendicectomy; development of any post-therapeutic or postoperative complications	Patients who were successfully treated with appendicectomy and had none of the following: no appendicitis on histology; development of any post-therapeutic or postoperative complications including readmissions

Fig 1 PRISMA flow diagram

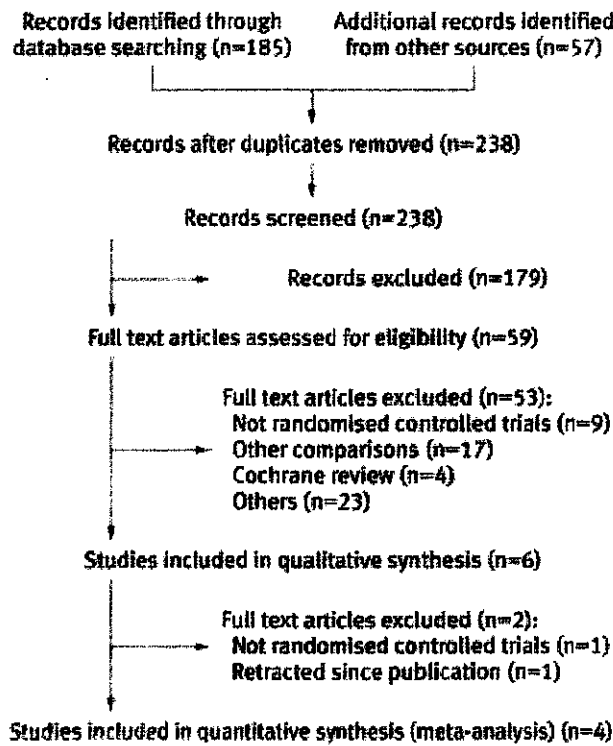


Fig 2 Treatment outcome: antibiotics

