

Is Abdominal Drain Necessary after Laparoscopic Appendectomy for Complicated Appendicitis?

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Abstract

Background: Laparoscopic appendectomy is a safe and effective procedure for acute appendicitis. But several researchers found that performing laparoscopic appendectomy for complicated appendicitis may carry a risk of postoperative intraabdominal abscess development, and that's why some surgeons use the intraabdominal drain. In our study we aimed to assess the effect of the drain in laparoscopic appendectomy for complicated appendicitis.

Methodology: This is a prospective comparative study which was performed at Ain Shams University Hospitals between September 2018 and September 2021. It included 80 patients who underwent laparoscopic appendectomy for complicated appendicitis. The patients were divided sequentially into two groups, Group A: drain group and Group B: no-drain group.

Results: We had a non-significant difference between group A and B regarding post-operative complication (37.5% versus 32.5% respectively) and postoperative intraabdominal abscess formation (15% versus 12.5%) respectively). The no-drain group showed significantly shorter hospital stay than the drain group. We had no mortality in our study.

Conclusion: In our study, we didn't find considerable benefits for using the drain over intraperitoneal irrigation and lavage without drain after laparoscopic appendectomy for complicated appendicitis with significant longer hospital stay in the drain group.

Key words: complicated appendicitis, intraabdominal abscess, laparoscopic appendectomy, abdominal drainage