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제 목	초음파검사와 급성충수염의 진단: 메타분석에 의한 평가 Ultrasonography in the Diagnosis of Acute Appendicitis: Evaluation by Meta-analysis				
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분 야	의료관리 [보건의료의 길]	발 표 자	김춘배 일반회원	발 표 형 식	구 연
<p>Objective: To review the usefulness of ultrasonography (US) for the diagnosis of appendicitis and to evaluate the diagnostic accuracy of US according to patients' and researchers' characteristics.</p> <p>Materials and methods: Relevant Korean articles published between 1985 and 2003 were included if patients had clinical symptoms of acute appendicitis. Histopathologic findings were the reference standard and data were presented for 2 x 2 tables. Articles were excluded if patients had no sonographic signs of appendicitis by graded-compression US. Two reviewers independently extracted data on study characteristics. The Hasselblad method was used to obtain combined estimates of sensitivity and specificity for performance of US.</p> <p>Results: Twenty-two articles (2,643 patients) fulfilled all inclusion criteria. The estimate of d calculated combining of sensitivity and specificity was 2.0054 [95% confidence interval (CI): 1.8553, 2.1554] by a random effects model. Overall sensitivity and specificity (95% CI) were 86.7% (85.4 to 88.0), 90.0% (88.9 to 91.2), respectively. According to subgroup meta-analysis by patients' characteristics, the d estimate (95% CI) of dominantly younger age, male, and highly clinical suggestive group for US was 2.2388 (1.8758 to 2.6019), 2.7131 (2.2493 to 3.1770), 2.4582 (1.7387 to 3.1777), respectively. Also, according to subgroup meta-analysis by researchers' characteristics, the d value (95% CI) for US done by diagnostic radiologists and gray-scale was 2.0195 (1.7942 to 2.2447) and 2.2630 (1.8444 to 2.6815).</p> <p>Conclusion: This evidence suggests that US may be useful in the diagnosis of acute appendicitis, especially when patients are younger age, male, and clinically highly suggestive.</p>					