**Methods:** Patients who underwent emergency primary appendicectomy were retrospectively identified over a four-year period. Clinical coding for these patients was compared against the diagnostic gold standard of histopathology and the kappa co-efficient calculated.

**Results:** Of 1143 patients, clinical codes for 594 patients differentiated between true appendicitis and negative appendicectomies. An overall kappa co-efficient of 0.580 indicated only moderate correlation between clinical coding and histopathology. The negative appendicectomy rate was underestimated by 11% (63/594). Amongst young adults (aged 16-34 years) kappa was decreased compared to children and older adults (0.548 versus 0.663 and 0.830, respectively). The rate of incorrect clinical coding was greater for women than men (15% versus 9%, p = 0.032).

**Conclusions:** Clinical coding for appendicities was incomplete and the negative appendicectomy rate was underestimated. Coding accuracy varied depending on pathology and patient demographics. Coding processes should be improved to increase the reliability of the HES database both for national analyses and as a tool to measure individual units’ outcomes.

**0922: SCOTTISH TIMING OF ACUTE CARE SURGERY AUDIT (STACS)**

Kirsten Hamilton 1, James Milburn, Andrea Jansen, Jan Jansen. Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen, UK.

**Aims:** Proposed standards for ideal time to surgery (iTTS) for emergency general surgical patients have recently been described in 5 subgroups based upon clinical urgency. The iTTS describes the time the decision to operate was taken to actual time operation commenced. The aim of this prospective audit was to evaluate the time taken to operate in our hospital against the recommendations.

**Method:** Surgical admissions requiring an emergency operation were assessed over a two week period. Basic demographics were recorded in addition to the date and time of decision to operate, time of arrival in theatre and operative start time.

**Results:** 29 patients were included. 11 (38%) patients were operated out with the iTTS for their diagnosis. This was most evident in those with sepsis secondary to soft tissue infection, with 100% waiting longer than recommended, ranging from an additional 3:46-18:06 hours.

**Conclusion:** Over a third of emergency general surgical procedures were not performed within the iTTS; having the potential to increase adverse outcomes. Our study highlights the need to review access and provision of emergency theatres. This forms the pilot in a Nationwide Scottish study, which will be completed in 2014 in association with the Scottish Surgical Research Group.

**0924: SEASONAL VARIATION IN THE INCIDENCE OF APPENDICITIS AT A BRITISH DISTRICT GENERAL HOSPITAL**

Jason Patel 1, Szymon Musiol 1, Andrew Webster 1, Sam Bostock 1, James Rich 1, Abdel Rahman Omer 1, Dmitri Nepogodiev 2. 1 Ipswich Hospital, Ipswich, UK; 2 Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, Norwich, UK.

**Introduction:** We sought to determine whether there is seasonal variation in the incidence of appendicitis in a modern British cohort and whether this may be explained by climatic variables.

**Methods:** Patients who underwent emergency primary appendicectomy were retrospectively identified over four years. Histopathology was the diagnostic gold standard. The monthly incidence of appendicitis and normal appendicectomy was calculated. These rates’ association with monthly average humidity and mean maximum daily temperature was explored using Spearman’s rank correlation.

**Results:** Data was available for 1079 patients. Incidence of appendicitis varied from 3.46 to 6.11 cases per 100,000 per month. The peak was in June and the trough in February. Incidence in July-January was relatively stable. There was no discernible pattern in the incidence of normal appendicectomy, with rates fluctuating between 1.40 and 2.60 cases. There was a moderately negative correlation between incidence of appendicitis and average monthly humidity (-0.552). There was only weak correlation between appendicitis and mean daily temperature (0.272).

**Conclusions:** This contemporary British cohort exhibits seasonal variation in the incidence of appendicitis, with a peak in early summer and trough in late winter. Although decreasing humidity is moderately correlated to an increasing incidence of appendicitis, it does not explain seasonal variation.

**0961: TOPPING TELEVISIONS: A HAZARD FOR CHILDREN**

Karim Amer 1, Govind Oliver, Jessica Ng, Katie Gladman, Duncan Bew. King’s College Hospital, London, UK.

**Introduction:** Toppling television sets are a well-recognised cause of neurological morbidity and mortality in children. We review the literature regarding paediatric trauma associated with falling televisions, and describe the paediatric mortality rate as a result of trauma who presented to our institution.

**Methods:** A comprehensive literature review was conducted using MEDLINE. A retrospective search using the Trauma Audit & Research Network (TARN) and our institution’s records identified mortalities in children (age <16-years) secondary to trauma between 2010-2013.

**Results:** 21 articles reported 849 cases of paediatric trauma secondary to topping televisions between 1999-2012. There were no reports from the UK or Europe. The most common age group was 1-5 years, with preponderance towards boys, and most common injury was head trauma. The mortality rate was 67/849 (8%). There were 12 mortalities secondary to trauma; 1 (8%) death due to head injury by a toppled television set in a child aged 1 year 8 months.

**Conclusions:** Toppling televisions is most hazardous in children <5-years of age with the most common injury being head trauma. National data is paramount in supporting prevention strategies which include raising public awareness and encouraging manufacturers to supply hazard warnings and fixation devices for the modern flat-screen television.

**0962: IS CLINICAL EXAMINATION BECOMING OBSOLETE IN MODERN SURGICAL PRACTICE?**

Kate Hancorn, Anita Hargreaves, Tom Wellens, Sinead Heneghan 1, Rajsundaram Rajaganesan. St Helens and Knowsley NHS Trust, Liverpool, UK.

**Introduction:** Computed Tomography (CT) is the radiological investigation of choice for the majority of acute surgical admissions. Accuracy has been repeatedly reported at over 95% in studies since 2002. A retrospective analysis was performed to compare a senior clinician’s bedside diagnosis with that of emergency CT.

**Methods:** Retrospective review of 100 sequential emergency patients who required laparotomy was performed. Data was identified in August 2013 for the preceding time period. Data was collected using a standardised proforma and electronic records.

**Results:** 4 patients with incomplete data were excluded. The mean age was 63 years. ASA grade predominantly was 2 – 3. There were 21 mortalities. Clinical diagnosis and operative findings at laparotomy were consistent in 57.3% (55/96) patients. Correlation between CT diagnosis and operative findings was 84.4% (81/96). Clinical diagnosis was incongruent with CT findings in 42.7% (41/96) cases.

**Conclusions:** Our cohort of patients comprised of systemically unwell patients who can be more difficult to assess due to physiological distress. With the significantly better diagnostic capabilities of CT compared to clinical diagnosis alone, by a senior grade surgeon, should patients be imaged as opposed to examined on arrival to the surgical unit?

**0968: THE EFFECT OF INSTITUTING A DEPARTMENTAL POLICY FOR REMOVAL OF THE MACROSCOPICALLY NORMAL APPENDIX AT LAPAROSCOPY**

Andrew Duncan 1, Malcolm Aldridge. Lister Hospital, Stevenage, UK.

**Introduction:** To evaluate the introduction of a departmental policy to remove all appendixes at diagnostic laparoscopy for right iliac fossa pain.

**Methods:** An audit of appendicectomies was completed detailing the rates of laparoscopy, negative appendicectomies and complications. After presentation a departmental policy was agreed for the removal of the macroscopically normal appendix and a re-audit was performed. A negative appendicectomy was defined as a histologically normal appendix.

**Results:** The initial audit reviewed 229 consecutive appendicectomies (62% laparoscopic) the re-audit reviewed 62 consecutive appendicectomies (45% laparoscopic). The rates in the initial and re-audit for negative appendicectomies were 26% versus 14.5%, and in laparoscopic appendicectomies 31% versus 21.4%. The perforation rate was 14% versus 11.3%, the wound infection rate was 4.4% versus 3.2% and intra-abdominal collection was 2.6% versus 1.6%.