

# Surgery & Integrative Medicine

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## **Audit on Emergency Care Investigations for Acute Abdominal pain as per Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) Commissioning Guide**

Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) have suggested the 'Emergency General Surgery' commissioning guidelines on investigations for acute abdominal pain. We aim to assess adherence of mandatory investigations for acute abdominal pain as per the above guidelines, and encourage improvements on compliance, therefore, improving patient care. Retrospective analysis was conducted on 39 patients in the 1<sup>st</sup> cycle (1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> April 2025), and 39 patients in the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle (28<sup>th</sup> May-5<sup>th</sup> June 2025). The data was collected on Full blood count (FBC), Urea and Electrolytes (U&E), Liver Function Test (LFT), C-reactive Protein (CRP), Amylase/Lipase, Urinalysis, Pregnancy Test, Electrocardiogram (ECG) >50 years old, Glucose. The intervention was a poster circulated within the general surgical team explaining the RCS guidelines, between cycles. In both cycles 79% of the patients were women. The age group commonly encountered in both cycles were 30-39 years old. FBC, U&E, LFT, CRP had 100% compliance in both cycles. The most significant positive change was seen with urinalysis, from 49% to 72%, and pregnancy test from 52% to 74%. 8% of patients had glucose checked in the 1<sup>st</sup> cycle, increasing to 13% post-intervention, with ECG in >50 years old increasing from 18% to 19%. However, Amylase/Lipase being 95% in the 1<sup>st</sup> cycle dropped down to 72% in the second cycle. Overall, this audit ended up producing a significant improvement in the compliance rates of investigations in acute abdominal pain, therefore, translating to a better patient outcome.

### **Keywords**

surgery, emergency, improvement, RCS, abdominal, pain

### **Biography**

I am Vishnupriya Suresh, a Core Surgical Trainee within the National Health Service (NHS) of England, currently at Worcestershire Royal Hospital. I have always loved and enjoyed surgery, and I have great interest in pursuing a career in General Surgery. I have presented a few audits and quality improvement projects and have had a recent publication within this speciality. I am looking forward to providing the best level of care possible by optimising guideline usage.