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**Answer: Meckel's diverticulum**

Meckel's diverticulum is the most common congenital malformation of the gastrointestinal tract due to persistence of the congenital vitello-intestinal duct.<sup>1</sup> Although first described by Fabricius Hildanus in 1598, the name derives from the German anatomist Johann Friedrich Meckel who in 1809 described the embryological and pathological features.<sup>1</sup>

Meckel's diverticulum is well known by rule of two: present in approximately 2% of the population, two feet from the ileocaecal junction and measures two inch long.<sup>1</sup> There can be anatomical variations.

It is one of the differential diagnosis of acute appendicitis and is usually discov-

ered intra-operatively.<sup>2</sup> The majority of Meckel's diverticulum are silent and are discovered incidentally during surgery. A Meckel's diverticulum should always be suspected during surgery when one finds the appendix to be normal in a patient operated for suspected acute appendicitis. The clinical diagnosis of a Meckel's diverticulum is rarely considered pre-operatively in adult.<sup>3</sup>

Common complications associated with a Meckel's diverticulum include gastrointestinal bleeding, intestinal obstruction, intussusceptions, diverticulitis and perforation.<sup>3</sup>

The treatment of choice for the symptomatic Meckel's diverticulum is surgical resection. Incidentally discovered Meckel's diverticulum should be left in place.

**REFERENCES**

- 1:** Sagar J, Kumar V, Shah DK. Meckel's diverticulum: a systematic review. *J R Soc Med* 2006; 99:501-5.
  - 2:** Chuhan TA, Tabook SA, Elmukashfi E, Sakroon SM. Acute appendicitis or .....is it meckel's diverticulitis? *Oman Med J* 2010; 25:1-2.
  - 3:** Sharma RK, Jain VK. Emergency surgery for meckel's diveticulum. *WJES* 2008;3:27.
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