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Is the laparoscopic approach becoming the gold standard in emergency surgery?

Introduction: Nowadays, the use of laparoscopic approach is increasingly in patients with urgent surgical pathology due to its benefits.

Aim: Analyze our experience of the laparoscopic approach in our Unit in the last 18 years.

Material and Methods: Descriptive study of data from 12920 patients operated by an Emergency Surgery Unit of a reference hospital from November 2000 to May 2018.

Results: From 12920 patients underwent surgery, 9712 presented subsidiary pathologies with possible laparoscopic approach, which was finally used in 38.8% of them. Appendicitis and cholecystitis are the pathologies in which the laparoscopic approach is used more frequently (56'7% and 62% respectively), and has increased in recent years to 98'3% and 89'3% respectively. The role of laparoscopy in other pathologies, such as gastroduodenal perforation (23'8%), diverticulitis (10'2%), pancreatitis (4'2%), and intestinal obstruction (due to cancer 5'25%, due to adhesions 9'8%) is lower, but also with an obvious increase in the last years (in 2017 gastroduodenal perforation 58'3%, diverticulitis 38'5%, pancreatitis 71'4% and intestinal obstruction due to cancer 17'6%, due to adhesions 20%).

Conclusion: There is a clear preference for laparoscopic approach in the most frequent surgical emergencies. Although, in others pathologies, the laparoscopic approach are less frequent, there is an increasing tendency for developing in last years