

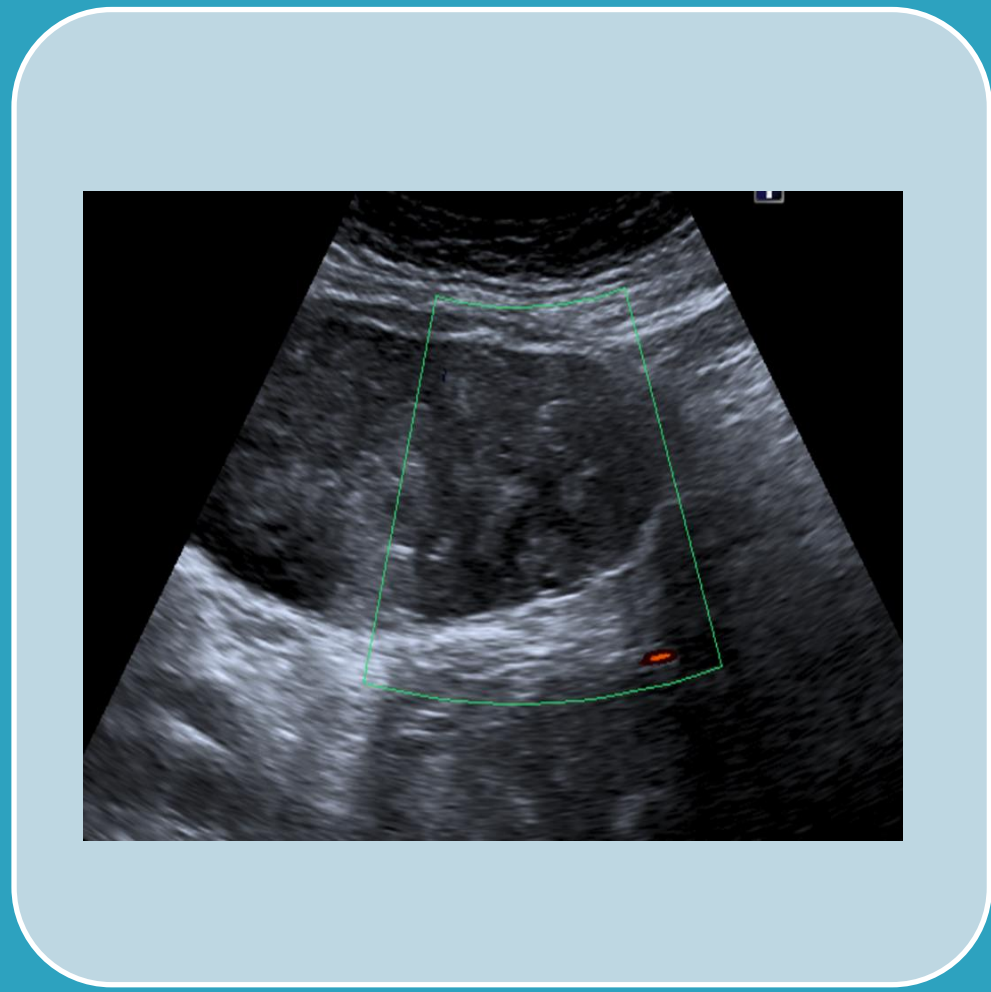
# Appendix mucocele: A case report

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## Case Report

**Patient details:** 73 year old female with no significant clinical history

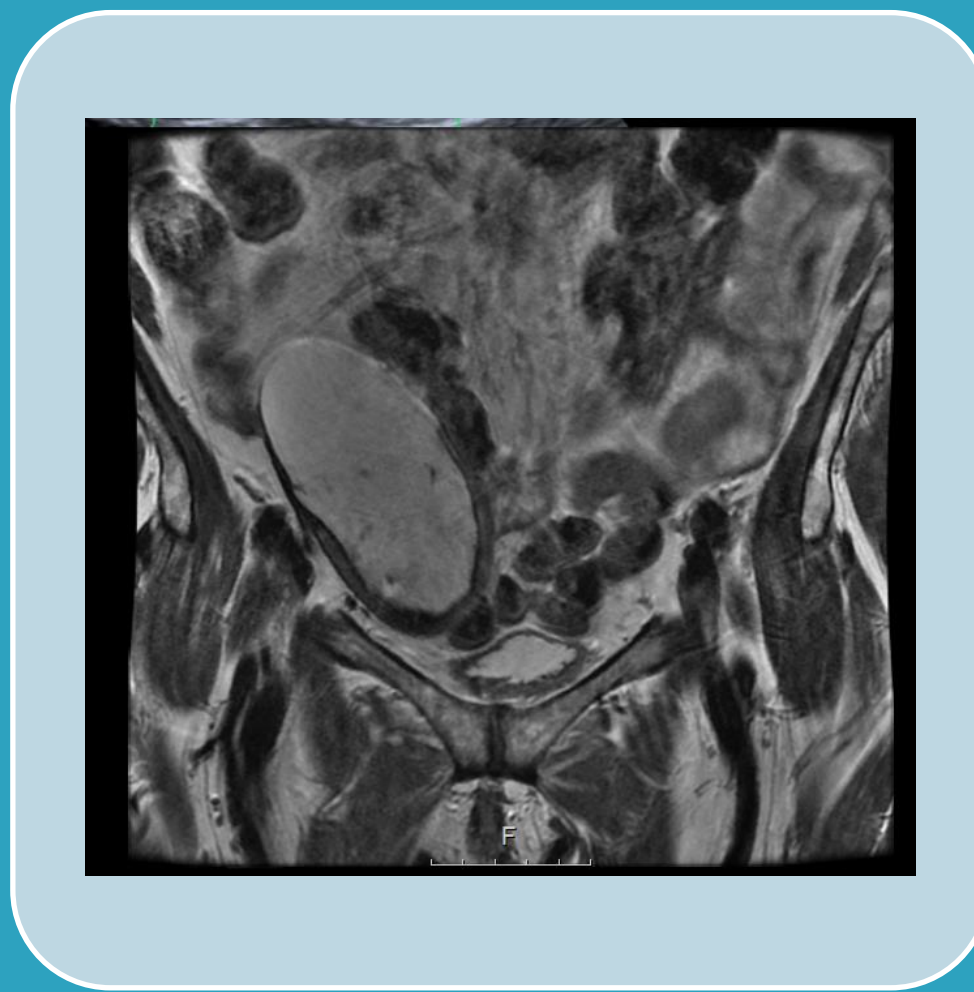
**Clinical history :** Pelvic mass on examination, previous fibroids.



### Ultrasound

**Findings:** The tip of the appendix is distended to a diameter of 5.1 cm over a length of approximately 10 cm containing heterogenous fluid within. The base of the appendix and caecal pole appear unremarkable. Appearances are thought likely to represent a large appendiceal mucocele.

**Recommendations:** Colorectal opinion and CT colonography.



### MRI Pelvis

**Findings:** The cystic mass in the right iliac fossa likely representing an appendiceal mucocele.



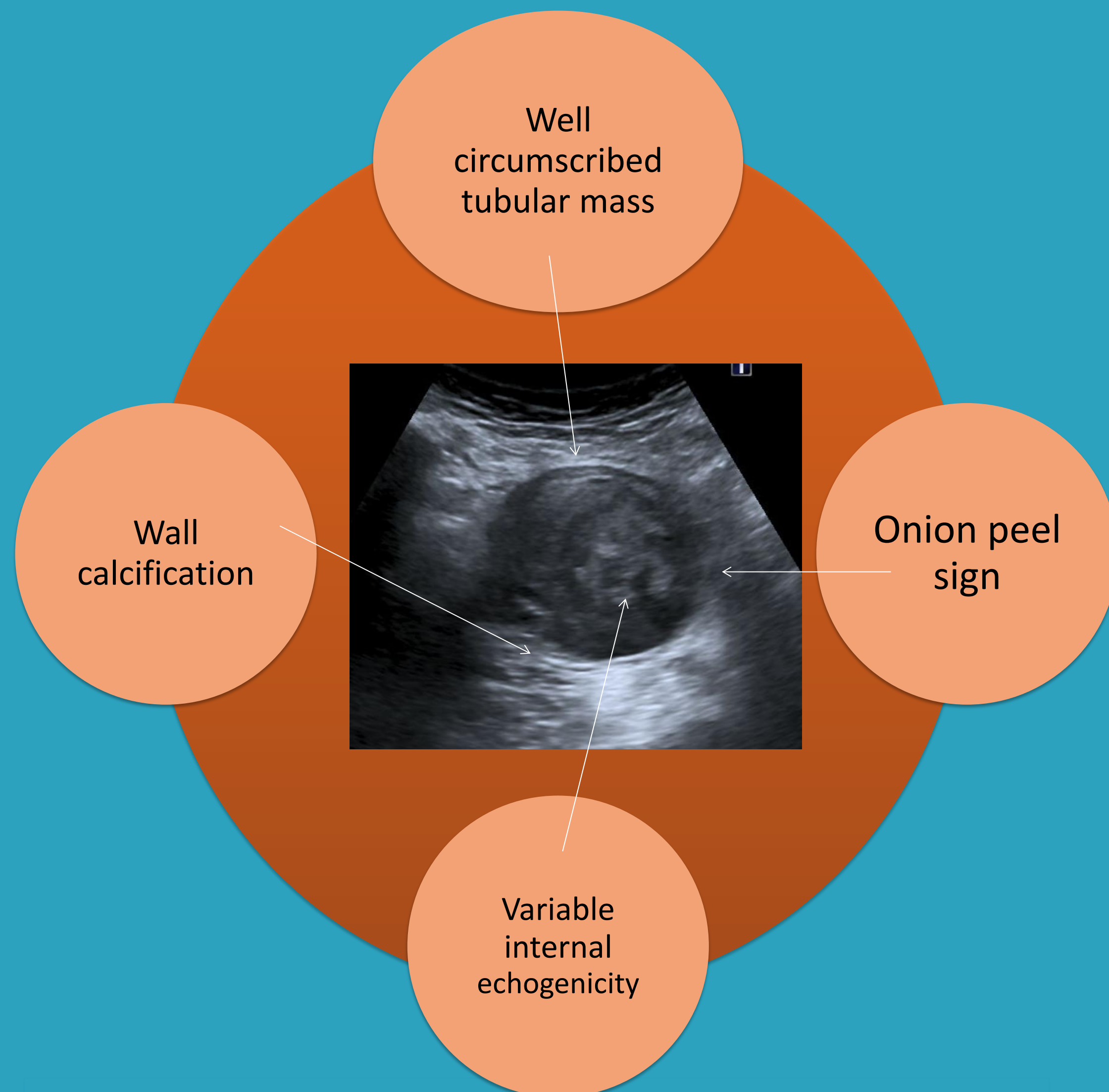
### CT Colonoscopy

**Findings:** Appendix mucocele. No large bowel mass or stricture.

### Histology

LOW-GRADE APPENDICEAL MUCINOUS NEOPLASM WITHOUT EVIDENCE OF MALIGNANCY.

## Typical Ultrasound Appearances



## Learning points

When discovering a right lower quadrant mass one should consider the possible diagnosis of an appendiceal mucocele, particularly in asymptomatic patients with normal pelvic anatomy. When imaging the appendix, awareness of the typical appearances of a mucocele can improve diagnostic detection however, it is important to remember to assess for the cause and to study for any potential surgical complications such as pseudomyxoma peritonei.

## Appendix Mucocele

Appendix mucoceles are rare, appearing in 0.2-0.3% of surgical appendectomy specimens.

There are 4 types including:

- Mucosal hyperplasia
- Mucinous neoplasm of the appendix
- Appendiceal carcinoid
- Adjacent caecal tumour

Regardless of the cause, the result is obstruction of the appendiceal lumen and accumulation of mucus.

Appendix mucoceles are typically asymptomatic and are discovered incidentally with a good prognosis if no mucous cells are present within the peritoneum.

Mucinous cystadenocarcinomas is when neoplastic tissue invade the wall or when cells are present within the peritoneal mucus, pseudomyxoma peitonei.

The diagnosis of an appendix mucocele is very important pre operatively so that surgery can be planned appropriately to reduce the chance of leakage and pseudomyxoma peritonei.

The finding of an appendiceal mucocele should also prompt a search for associated tumours within the colon and ovary.