AUTHORS' RESPONSE

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CORRESPONDENCE TO

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Thank you for the opportunity to reply to the letter from Vaughan-Shaw *et al*. The conclusion of our study was that patients presenting with lower abdominal pain and a normal white cell count and C-reactive protein are unlikely to have acute appendicitis and if there is not a strong clinical suspicion of acute appendicitis (or any other condition) they can be sent home. However, we agree with the comments of Vaughan-Shaw *et al* regarding those few patients in whom there is a strong clinical suspicion of acute appendicitis (or indeed any other possible acute abdominal problem) but normal inflammatory markers. This group should clearly be admitted to hospital for further observation or investigations.

Readers' pages – new additions

Since the last issue of the *Annals*, the following letters have been published on our website
<<http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/publications/readerspages>>

Copying correspondence letters between clinicians to the patient: The way forward?

The correlation between ultrasonography and histology in the search for gallstones

Bringing back to light, Transillumination