

Uncertain diagnoses in a children's hospital: patient characteristics and outcomes.

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<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/uncertain-diagnoses-childrens-hospital-patient-characteristics-and-outcomes>

[Diagnostic uncertainty](#) has been described as a clinician perception that affects diagnostic evaluation and can lead to diagnostic errors and negative patient outcomes. This single site cross-sectional study describes the clinical characteristics and healthcare utilization among pediatric patients prospectively identified as having an 'uncertain diagnosis' (defined as patients with high likelihood to have a different diagnosis resulting in a change in management). Of the 200 patients meeting inclusion criteria, 45% had gastrointestinal symptoms (e.g., vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhea). Five percent of patients (5%) required a [rapid response team](#) and 3.5% were transferred to intensive care. The authors suggest that better methods to prospectively identify patients with an 'uncertain diagnosis' can result in optimized care for these patients.