New-onset SVT in the Pediatric PACU after Appendectomy

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Perioperative supraventricular tachycardias (SVT) and other arrhythmias rarely occur in children undergoing non-cardiac surgery. The case below illustrates an opportunity for anesthesiologists to recognize and manage arrhythmias promptly, and thereby mitigate associated morbidity. The patient is a 2 year old boy weighing 15.4 kg without a past medical history or known allergies who presented with acute appendicitis, sepsis, and vomiting. We present a case of a 2-year old boy with a new-onset SVT following a routine laparoscopic appendectomy in the PACU upon completion of surgery. SVT in the pediatric, non-cardiac surgery patient is a rare but important condition that may first present to the anesthesiologist during the perioperative period. Anesthesiologists should be aware of the diagnosis and treatment of SVT’s for prompt management and reduction of morbidity.