



Appendectomy

Surgical Removal of the Appendix

Patient Education

This educational information is to help you be better informed about your operation and empower you with the skills and knowledge needed to actively participate in your care.

Keeping You Informed

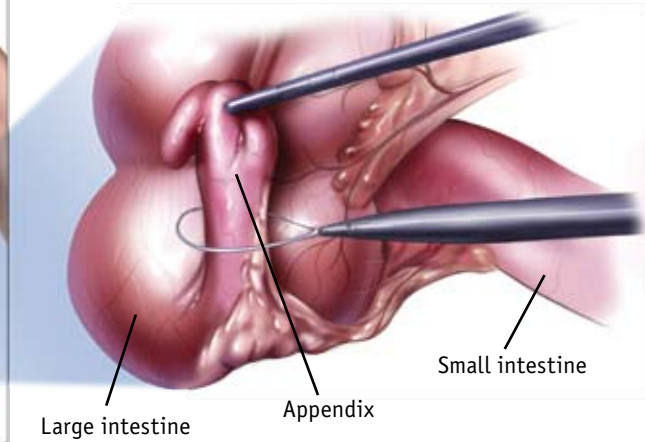
Information that will help you further understand your operation and your role in healing.

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Removal of the Appendix



Treatment Options

Surgery

Laparoscopic appendectomy—The appendix is removed with instruments placed into small abdominal incisions.

Open appendectomy—The appendix is removed through an incision in the lower right abdomen.

Nonsurgical

Surgery is the only option for an acute (sudden) infection of the appendix.

Benefits and Risks

An appendectomy will remove the infected organ and relieve pain. Once the appendix is removed, appendicitis will not happen again. The risk of not having surgery is the appendix can burst resulting in an abdominal infection called peritonitis.

Possible complications include abscess, infection of the wound or abdomen, intestinal blockage, hernia at the incision, pneumonia, risk of premature delivery (if you are pregnant), and death.

Expectations

Before your operation—Evaluation usually includes blood work, urinalysis, and an abdominal CT scan, or abdominal ultrasound. Your surgeon and anesthesia provider will review your health history, medications, and options for pain control.

The day of your operation—You will not be allowed to eat or drink while you are being evaluated for an emergency appendectomy.

Your recovery—If you have no complications you usually can go home in 1 or 2 days after a laparoscopic or open procedure.

Call your surgeon if you are in severe pain, have stomach cramping, a high fever, odor or increased drainage from your incision, or no bowel movements for 3 days.

The Condition

Appendectomy is the surgical removal of the appendix. The operation is done to remove an infected appendix. An infected appendix, called appendicitis, can burst and release bacteria and stool into the abdomen.

What are the common symptoms?

- Abdominal pain that starts around the navel
- Not wanting to eat
- Low fever
- Nausea and sometimes vomiting
- Diarrhea or constipation

This first page is an overview. For more detailed information, review the entire document.