

Appendicitis

Children's Services

The appendix is a small tube of tissue connected to the large intestine, usually in the lower right side of the abdomen. It has no function in humans. Appendicitis can be caused by infection or if the appendix becomes blocked by bowel contents. When this happens the appendix starts to swell and bacteria can easily infect it. The swollen appendix can then perforate (break open) and the infection can spread to other parts of the body.

What are the symptoms?

- Stomach pain: usually begins in the centre, around the belly button, then moves to the lower right side
- Fever
- Feels sick and may vomit
- Loss of appetite
- Diarrhoea or constipation

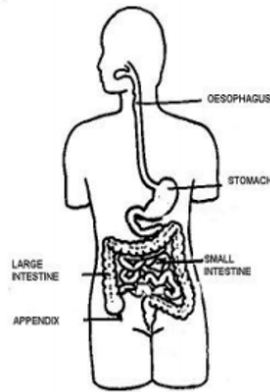
How is it diagnosed?

Appendicitis is not always straight forward to diagnose because the symptoms are very similar to other conditions such as urine infection, gastroenteritis or swelling of glands in the stomach from viral illness. After talking to you about your child, the doctor will examine your child's stomach. This may be done several times until the doctor is sure that it could be appendicitis. The nurses will monitor your child and give pain relief. Your child may not be allowed to eat or drink until a diagnosis is made, therefore, intravenous fluids might be required. A urine test will be needed and perhaps blood tests and an ultrasound scan.

The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.

- Please decontaminate your hands frequently for 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol gel if available
- If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or any loss of taste or smell please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility and seek advice from 111
- Keep the environment clean and tidy
- Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.

Before the operation, no test can say that appendicitis is definitely present; the operation will only be done if the doctor thinks it's likely. Occasionally, during the operation, appendicitis is not found, but the appendix will be removed anyway.



How is it treated?

Once the doctors agree your child probably has appendicitis, they will need an operation to remove the appendix. This decision is made by the surgeon caring for your child who will also explain the procedure to you. This will include the benefits and risks of the operation. In preparation your child will not be allowed to eat or drink for a few hours before theatre.

After the operation your child will be carefully monitored by the nurses and doctors. The intravenous fluids might be continued if required; because diet and fluids must be re-introduced slowly to avoid the risk of vomiting. Regular pain relief will be given as it is important for your child to start moving as soon as possible to avoid complications such as chest infection.

The dressing from the operation site should be removed after 24hrs, the wound may look bruised which is quite normal. Your child will need to have a bath or shower daily in plain water to help the wound to heal, the stitches are usually dissolvable. Your child should usually be discharged from hospital 3-5 days after surgery.

What do I need to do after my child goes home?

- No school for two weeks
- No sports, P.E. for 4-6 weeks
- Keep wound clean and dry
- Eat a well balanced diet to help the wound heal and avoid constipation.

Once discharged, you will have open access to the Paediatric Assessment Unit for 48hrs. During this time, please contact 01902 695047 for further advice or to inform the hospital of any post-operative concerns.

English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。