



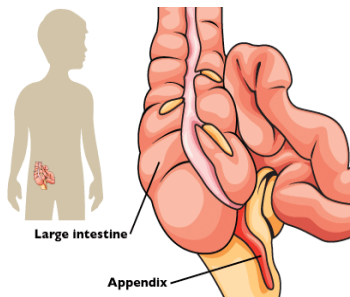
Pediatric Surgical Associates, Ltd.

Patient and Family Education

Acute Appendicitis

What it is acute appendicitis?

Acute appendicitis is an infection of the appendix that makes it inflamed. The appendix is located in the right lower abdomen and is a “worm-like” tubular structure attached to the first part of the large intestine.



How is it treated?

The treatment for appendicitis begins with hydration and antibiotics. The appendix is then surgically removed in order to prevent the infection from returning.

What will happen after surgery?

After surgery your child will be taken to the recovery room where he/she will stay for approximately 45 minutes. Once your child is awake you will be reunited and will together be escorted to his/her hospital room. Your child will receive pain medications through the IV until he/she is able to take them by mouth. Hydration will be provided through the IV until your child is drinking enough to stay hydrated. Your child will be encouraged to get out of bed and walk to the bathroom with assistance when necessary.

When will my child be discharged?

The timing of discharge will depend upon your child. Our requirements for discharge are that your child must

- **Not have a fever**
- **Be drinking enough to stay hydrated**
- **Have pain controlled with medicines taken by mouth**

Once your child meets these criteria he/she will be discharged home. This may be on the same day as surgery.



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What will be my child's recovery at home?

- Children with acute appendicitis usually go back to school within 3-4 days after hospital discharge.
- Gym and sports may be resumed in 2 weeks.
- No tub bathing or swimming for 7 days. It is ok to shower and let water run over the dressing/incision.

We will plan to see your child 2-4 weeks after discharge in our clinic for follow up. Please call 612-813-8000 to schedule your appointment.

What should I be looking out for after the operation?

- Fevers (Temperature over 101° F)
- Abdominal pain
- Nausea/vomiting or Diarrhea
- Wound infections (redness, swelling, drainage, tenderness)
- Glue applied to the incision(s) will fall off on its own. Do not apply lotions or ointments to the glue for 5 days.

What medications will we take home?

- Acetaminophen _____ mg every 6 hours as needed for pain/fever
- Ibuprofen _____mg every 6 hours as needed for pain/fever
- Tramadol_____mg every 6 hours as needed for pain
- Miralax _____ once daily for 3 days

Who should I call with questions?

Call Pediatric Surgical Associates at 612-813-8000. Our phones are answered 24 hours per day. If it is after hours our answering service will put you in contact with the on-call surgeon.