



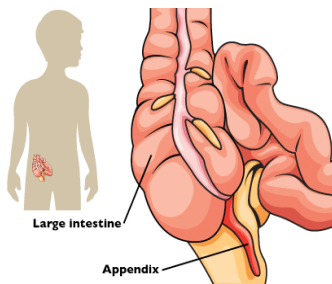
Pediatric Surgical Associates, Ltd.

Patient and Family Education

Perforated Appendicitis with Abscess

What is perforated appendicitis?

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. Acute appendicitis is an infection of the appendix that makes it inflamed. As a result of the infection the appendix sometimes develops a hole in it that allows the infection to spread to the rest of the abdomen. This is “perforated” or “ruptured” appendicitis.



What is an abscess?

An abscess is a collection of infection that has built up inside the abdomen.

How is it treated?

The treatment for perforated appendicitis with abscess begins with hydration and antibiotics.

We will then ask our radiology colleagues if they feel the abscess can be drained. Drainage of the abscess is performed under sedation. Using guidance with either ultrasound or CT scan the radiologist will pass a small tube into the abscess in order to drain the infection out. Sometimes they are unable to place a drain and they will simply suck out as much fluid as possible. Either way, your child will stay in the hospital and receive IV antibiotics until the drain is removed and he/she is no longer having fevers, has adequate pain control, and is tolerating a regular diet.

If our radiology colleagues feel they cannot drain the abscess then your child will remain in the hospital receiving IV antibiotics until he/she is no longer having fevers, has adequate pain control, and is tolerating a regular diet.

Once your child meets our discharge criteria he/she will be sent home to recover for a period of 6-8 weeks. During that time your child can return to school and his/her regular activities. After 6-8 weeks your child will return to the hospital to have his/her appendix removed surgically in order to prevent the appendicitis from returning. Most children stay overnight after that surgery and are able to return to normal activities within 2-3 days.

When will my child be discharged home?

Your child will remain in the hospital until the drain is removed. Your child will then be considered ready for discharge when he/she meets the following criteria:

- No fever for 24 hours
- Pain controlled on medications taken by mouth
- Eating and drinking enough to stay hydrated

What will be my child's recovery at home?

- Children with perforated appendicitis and abscess usually go back to school within 7-10 days after discharge.
- Gym and sports may be resumed as tolerated.

We will plan to see your child 2-4 weeks after discharge in our clinic for follow up.

What should I be looking out for once we go home?

Watch for the following:

- Fevers (Temperature over 101° F)
- Abdominal pain
- Nausea/vomiting or Diarrhea
- Wound infections (redness, swelling, drainage, tenderness)

If your child develops these or any symptoms that concern you please call our office at 612-813-8000.

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
- Augmentin_____mg every 8 hours x _____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.