
APPENDECTOMY

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

Ruptured Appendix

- Unfortunately, many people do not know they have appendicitis until the appendix bursts. If this happens, it results in more serious problems.
- The incidence is higher in the very young and very old and also higher during pregnancy because the symptoms (nausea, vomiting, right-sided pain) may be similar to other pregnancy conditions.

Options

- **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 standard treatment for an acute (sudden) infection of the appendix. Antibiotic treatment might be used for specific patients and children.

Benefits of the operation

The operation will remove the infected organ and relieve pain. Once the appendix is removed, appendicitis will not happen again.

Risk of not having surgery

The appendix can burst, resulting in an abdominal infection called peritonitis.

Possible complications

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

Expectations of the operation

- Before the operation: You will not be allowed to eat or drink while you are being evaluated for an emergency appendectomy.
- Recovery: If you have no complications, you usually can go home in 1 or 2 days after a laparoscopic or open procedure.

Call the 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.