Read this information on **Appendectomy** from the American College of Surgeons www.facs.org and complete the activities below.

Surgical Treatment

Acute appendicitis is an urgent problem requiring surgical consultation.

Laparoscopic Appendectomy

This technique is the most common for simple appendicitis. The surgeon will make 1 to 3 small incisions in the abdomen. A port (nozzle) is inserted into one of the slits, and carbon dioxide gas inflates the abdomen. This process allows the surgeon to see the appendix more easily. A laparoscope is inserted through another port. It looks like a telescope with a light and camera on the end so the surgeon can see inside the abdomen. Surgical instruments are placed in the other small openings and used to remove the appendix. The area is washed with sterile fluid to decrease the risk of further infection. The carbon dioxide comes out through the slits, and then the slits are closed with sutures or staples or covered with glue-like bandage or Steri-Strips. Your surgeon may start with a laparoscopic technique and need to change to an open technique. This occurs more often in males and people who are over 40 years, diabetic, obese or have a ruptured appendix.[7]

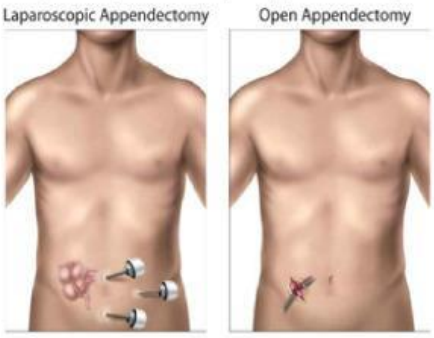
Open Appendectomy

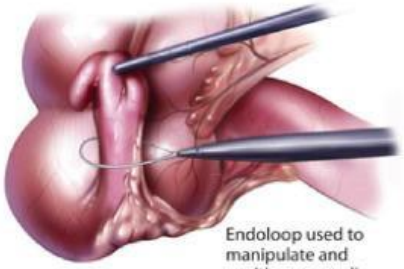
The surgeon makes an incision about 2 to 4 inches long in the lower right side of the abdomen. The appendix is removed from the intestine. The area is washed with sterile fluid to decrease the risk of further infection. A small drainage tube may be placed going from the inside to the outside of the abdomen. The drain is usually removed in the hospital. The wound is closed with absorbable sutures and covered with glue-like bandage or Steri-Strips.

Nonsurgical Treatment

If you only have some of the signs of appendicitis, your surgeon may treat you with antibiotics and watch for improvement. In an uncomplicated appendicitis, antibiotics may be effective, but there is a higher chance of reoccurrence.[8]

Laparoscopic versus Open Appendectomy





Endoloop used to manipulate and position appendix

Removal of appendix

Keeping You Informed

Laparoscopic versus Open

For both adults and children, laparoscopic appendectomy has the advantage of lower infection rates, shorter hospital and recovery times, and lower pain scores.[5]

Ruptured Appendix

Unfortunately, many people do not know they have appendicitis until the appendix bursts. If this happens, it causes more serious problems. A ruptured appendix may occur in up to 32% of patients who have acute appendicitis.[1] This 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.[1,6]

Antibiotic Therapy

Antibiotic treatment can be used to treat appendicitis if there is no rupture. This may result in fewer complications, less sick leave and less pain medication than surgery. Of those treated with antibiotics, 40% had a second event within a year and needed an appendectomy.[8]

How are the incisions described in laparoscopic appendectomy?

A. One to three small incisions are made
B. Two to four incisions are made in the lower abdomen

What is inserted into one of the incisions to allow visualization?

A. A surgical instrument with a light
B. A laparoscope with a light and camera

LIVEWORKSHEETS

What is the role of carbon dioxide in the procedure?

A. It is used to clean the abdominal area
B. It inflates the abdomen to improve access and visibility

Where are the surgical instruments placed during laparoscopic appendectomy?

A. Through the same port as the laparoscope
B. Through other small openings in the abdomen

What is stated about the incision in open appendectomy?

A. It is about 2 to 4 inches long on the lower right side
B. It is a small incision similar to laparoscopic surgery

What is said about the drainage tube in open appendectomy?

A. It is always placed and removed after surgery
B. It may be placed and is usually removed in the hospital

Watch this presentation on linking words:

https://prezi.com/p/y_zdkqkxb30b/linking-words-sequence-ideas/

👉 The steps of a laparoscopic appendectomy are given below.

Put them in the correct order and match each step with a sequencing word.

Use: **First / Then / After that / Next / Then / Finally**

- ___ ___ A laparoscope is inserted through a port
- ___ ___ Carbon dioxide is used to inflate the abdomen
- ___ ___ Small incisions are made
- ___ ___ Surgical instruments are used to remove the appendix
- ___ ___ The area is washed with sterile fluid
- ___ ___ The incisions are closed

Now listen to the instructions on treatment decisions and choose.

1. The patient is evaluated clinically and imaging studies are performed to **confirm / exclude** the diagnosis.
2. Imaging is used to assess for complications, including **rupture / infection only**.
3. Antibiotic treatment may be used when appendicitis is present **without rupture / with confirmed rupture**.
4. Patients are monitored for **clinical improvement / immediate discharge** after treatment.
5. Surgical intervention is required if rupture is **detected or suspected / ruled out completely**.
6. An appendectomy is performed to remove **affected tissue / surrounding structures**.
7. Laparoscopic surgery may be used, but conversion to an open procedure may depend on **intraoperative findings / patient preference**.
8. Recurrence is more relevant in cases treated **non-surgically / with immediate surgery**.

LIVEWORKSHEETS