



## **Appendectomy**

The appendix is a small worm-like structure that sits off the cecum, the first part of the colon or large intestine, in the right lower quadrant. The appendix can become inflamed or infected, leading to *acute appendicitis*.

Most cases of appendicitis are straight-forward, but complications can arise when the appendix perforates or ruptures. This can lead to an abscess, an infected fluid collection, or peritonitis, inflammation of the abdominal cavity. Untreated appendicitis can lead to sepsis or even death.

Treatment for appendicitis is typically surgical intervention. Surgery is performed laparoscopically via three small incisions using a camera and small instruments. Very rarely is open surgery with a large incision performed.

Surgery takes about 30-60 minutes. Depending on the severity of the appendicitis, many patients may be able to return home the same day as surgery or within 24 hours. Patients with perforated appendicitis may need to remain in the hospital to receive IV antibiotics for several days.

Recovery from appendicitis is typically very rapid. Most patients are 80% recovered within 2 weeks. It may take 4-8 weeks for you to return to normal- pain and soreness to completely resolve, appetite to return to normal, and to feel energetic. Patients typically stay off of work 3-10 days.

You will return to a normal life after you have recovered from surgery. The purpose of the appendix is not well-defined, and you should have no significant ill effects by having your appendix removed. You will return to eating a normal diet and engaging in your usual activities.