

What is an appendix?

The appendix is a narrow, finger-shaped pouch that extends from the proximal colon. It has no function in life that we know of.

What is appendicitis?

Appendicitis is the inflammation of the appendix. The appendix can become inflamed when the pouch becomes plugged at its opening. This allows bacteria to divide and cause swelling of the appendix, eventually leading to ruptures (burst).

Symptoms

- Tenderness or pain in the right lower quadrant of the abdomen
- Feeling of tiredness, almost flu-like symptoms
- Can cause nausea and vomiting
- Temperature of 100° or higher.

What if I need surgery?

Removal of the appendix is a very common procedure and is done routinely laparoscopically via 3 small incisions. The operation typically last 30-45 minutes and most patients can be discharged home the same day of surgery. If the appendix is ruptured a hospital stay of 2-3 days is usually required.