Appendicitis Roadmap

Children's Mercy

Your child has been diagnosed with appendicitis, now what?

Your child has started antibiotics and is being prepared for an appendectomy (surgery to remove the appendix). This assures that your child is safe while waiting for surgery.

We give 24-hr dosing of antibiotics. If non-perforated, we stop all antibiotics after surgery. If perforated, we continue daily IV antibiotics until discharge (unless the patient develops abscesses while inpatient).

In some cases, other treatment plans may be considered. If that happens, the care team will explain the plan and answer questions you may have.

Appendectomy Surgery
Surgery is how the team will learn whether the appendix is perforated.

The appendix has a hole (perforated).

You can expect your child to be in the hospital from 3-7 days. Because this surgery was not planned, we can not give an exact time.

Day of surgery - your child will receive pain medication, IV fluids, and IV antibiotics and be on a clear liquid diet.

Day after surgery - we will see if your child can tolerate food. They will continue to get pain medication and antibiotics. A goal is to have them move out of bed 3 times this day.

The second day and beyond, we will monitor your child's food and drink intake and their ability to move around out of bed.

As your child improves, pain medication will change from IV to oral (by mouth) and IV fluids will stop.

Your child will be discharged when they are fever free for 12 hours, can eat without vomiting, can drink enough liquid without additional IV fluids, is moving around out of bed and their pain is controlled by oral medication.

The appendix does not have a hole (non-perforated).

You can expect your child to go home the same day.

Your child will go to a recovery floor after surgery.

Your child will no longer need antibiotics and will get pain medication by mouth (orally).

Your child will be discharged when they can eat and drink without vomiting, their pain is controlled by oral medication and they are walking.

Please tell the care team when your child is in pain, you know them best!
There is no follow up clinic visit. You will receive information for contacting the Surgery Clinic if questions come up.