

Appendicitis

Appendicitis is defined as an inflammation of an extension of the colon, your appendix. Pain associated with this condition is typically experienced around the umbilicus first and then in the right abdominal region. The pain usually increases with the severity of the condition.

Signs and symptoms that are commonly experienced may include:

- Acute pain around the naval that typically migrates to the lower right side of the abdomen.
- Pain that increases with activity (walking, quick sudden movements, coughing, or sneezing).
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea and vomiting
- Irregular bowel activity (diarrhea or constipation)
- Abdominal bloating with or without gas association

Diagnosis

The cause of this condition is not always understood, but appendicitis is typically related to an obstruction in the appendix that leads to an infection. As the infection worsens, inflammation also worsens and may lead to an accumulation of pus/fluid. Physical examination and imaging studies can verify appendicitis and its severity.

Treatment

Seeking treatment immediately is important. If the appendix is left untreated, it may rupture. This could lead to serious illness and deadly complications. Sudden release of pain is not an indicator that the condition has resolved, it may indicate rupture. Surgical intervention to remove the appendix is the standard treatment for this condition.