

Acute Appendicitis

What is it?

- **Appendix**- a small sac attached to the large intestine, can burst and spread infection throughout the abdomen, is not an essential organ, most common between ages 10 and 30
- **Appendicitis**- is when the appendix is infected or inflamed

What are the symptoms of appendicitis?

- **Symptoms**- Pain in the abdomen that begins around the navel, becomes intense when walking or coughing
- Fever (100 to 101) and chills
- Loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting and constipation
- If a pain in the lower right abdomen for more than 4 hours see help

Is it serious?

- **Can be**- life-threatening if ruptures
- **Can Cause**- peritonitis with life-threatening infection
- Bacteria to infect the bloodstream-septicemia
- **Infection** - can lead to shock

What do I need to do?

- **See your Health Care Provider**- immediately
 - **Treatment**- abdominal CT Scan, abdominal ultrasound, diagnostic laparoscopy
 - **Complications**- peritonitis, infection of the Surgical wound, abscess, abnormal connections between abdominal organs or between these organs and the skin surface

