

## Fast Facts

### Appendix

<i>Function</i>	<i>Conditions</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Prevention</i>
<p>-Thin, four-inch long tube attached to the large intestines where the small intestines connect (lower right abdomen)</p> <p>-Function of the appendix is unknown (Some scientists think that it is a storehouse for the “good” bacteria that resides in your large intestines and helps to resupply them with the bacteria after a diarrheal illness. Other scientists think that it is a remnant from our evolutionary past and does not play a role in our body function nowadays.)</p>	<p><i>-Appendicitis--</i>when the appendix becomes infected and inflamed (exact cause is unknown but thought to be because of a blockage of the opening of the appendix into the large intestines). Primary concern is that the appendix can become so enlarged that it actually ruptures. Symptoms include pain that increases in intensity in the lower right portion of your abdomen, pain starts near your belly button and shifts to the lower right side, pain that gets worse if you cough/walk/make other jarring movements, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, low-grade fever that may worsen as the illness progresses, constipation or diarrhea and abdominal bloating. (If you have these symptoms, you should be seen by a doctor immediately.)</p> <p><i>-Appendix tumors--</i> (occurrence of this is rare) two main types are carcinoid (secrete chemicals that cause the bowel to have periodic episodes of flushing causing diarrhea) and epithelial (growths in the appendix that can be benign or malignant).</p>	<p>-The treatment for both is to surgically remove the appendix (appendectomy). Can be done traditional or laparoscopic.</p> <p>-Antibiotics are also given for appendicitis.</p>	<p>-No specific prevention techniques</p> <p>-Ensure bowel regularity by eating a diet high in fiber, drinking plenty of water and getting sufficient amounts of exercise.</p>

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