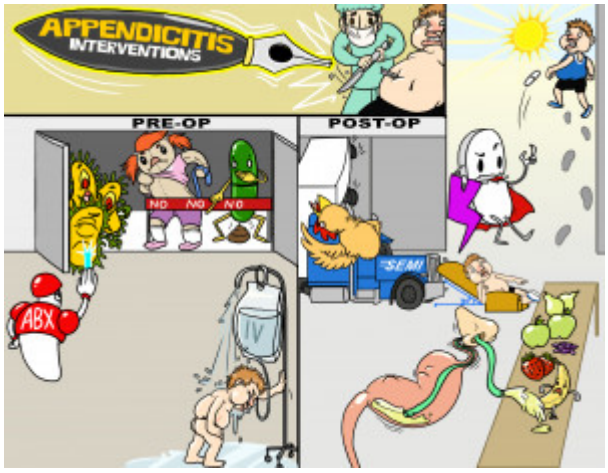
Appendicitis Interventions

Management of appendicitis focuses on early recognition of acute appendicitis. Because school age children often complain of abdominal pain, it is important to carefully assess for typical symptoms of appendicitis. Interventions associated with preoperative and postoperative appendectomy care are crucial to a successful outcome. Recovery after surgery is fairly rapid and complete.



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Treatment

Appendectomy
Appendix-pen Cut off by Scalpel
Removing the appendix is the gold standard treatment for appendicitis. An appendectomy is surgical removal of the appendix.

Preoperative Care

Antibiotics
ABX-guy
Antibiotics are often given preoperatively to help prevent infection before and after the surgery. Antibiotic treatment kills bacteria and stronger and longer courses of antibiotics are required if peritonitis occurs. Uncomplicated appendicitis may be treated with antibiotics alone in cases of nonperforated appendicitis, if surgery is contraindicated or if the patient wishes to avoid it for other reasons. However, appendectomy is still widely used and encouraged.

IV Fluids
IV Fluid
IV fluids are given to maintain fluid and electrolyte balance. Additionally, patients should be kept on NPO status as the stomach should be empty prior to surgery.

No Enema or Laxative
No Enema-Emma and Pooping-pill
The use of enemas or laxatives are dangerous as the resulting peristalsis may cause perforation of the appendix.

Postoperative Care

Semi-Fowler's Position
Semi-supported Fowl in Fowler's Position
Placing the patient in semi-Fowler’s, especially if there is an infection, is an important intervention. Semi-Fowler’s is a position where the patient is supine with the head of the bed at a 30-45 degree angle with the knees straight or slightly bent. This allows for the infection to localize in the peritoneum and not ascend to the lungs, heart, etc. This position is preferred, as high-Fowler's may not be tolerated by patients.

Nasogastric Tube
Nose-stomach Tube
An NG tube is placed until GI motility returns. Be sure to assess bowel sounds.

Diet as Tolerated
Food as Chosen
The diet is advanced as tolerated.

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Pain Management

Pain-pill-hero

Pain management is an important intervention not only to keep the patient comfortable, but to promote early ambulation, which decreases the risk of developing complications and aids in recovery time. Analgesics are commonly used to manage pain.

Early Ambulation

Early-sun Walking

Ambulation should begin the day of surgery or the first postoperative day. Encouragement of early ambulation decreases the risk of possible postoperative complications and aids in recovery time.

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