

# What is Appendicitis?

LORRIN

YOU have appendicitis!

DANIEL

OH NO!!!

LORRIN

Oh yes, but don't worry. You don't need your appendix. Kinda like this guy, here.

DANIEL

Hey! Who are you calling an appendix?!? Do I look like a little finger-shaped blobule hanging off the large intestine to you?

DANIEL

Don't answer that. Answer the question that we all wanna know - What's appendicitis?

LORRIN

Appendicitis is when your appendix becomes infected. This happens when a piece of food or stool gets trapped inside.

DANIEL

Stool?! Do you mean poop?!?!

LORRIN

I don't think so! Why don't you help by acting out the symptoms that brought our friend in here instead? Appendicitis can be very dangerous. It can also be tricky. Doctors know it can show up in funny ways and that's why they ask a lot of questions and push around on your belly and stuff to try to figure out if your appendix needs to come out. Lots of times it causes a pain in your belly, usually a little below and to the right of your belly button or, sometimes, in your back. Did you have pain, right near the belly button, or in your back?

LORRIN

Then, after a few hours of pain, did you throw up?

LORRIN

And finally, did you lose your appetite and have a fever?

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DANIEL

Oh, I can't eat another bite... really!

LORRIN

Ummm... maybe you should go back to drawing.

DANIEL

Okay, but one thing first.

Thank you, thank you!

DANIEL

So, can I draw a picture of an appendix blowing up!?!

LORRIN

It doesn't blow up. It RUPTURES. Sometimes, the pain just goes away. This seems like a good thing, but it isn't. This can mean that the appendix has broken open or ruptured. And when that happens, the infection can spread to other parts of your body.

DANIEL

I can draw that.

LORRIN

However, whether your appendix has ruptured or hasn't, you still have to do the same thing - get it taken out so you feel better!

DANIEL

Out? For real? Like completely out of your body!?!

LORRIN

You'll have an operation. Your doctor will give you medicine that makes you go to sleep and then when you wake up, you'll have a little scar and no appendix.

DANIEL

Cool! Then what?

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LORRIN

Then not much. You shouldn't have any more pain, and you can usually eat the same foods you always have and, pretty soon, you should be able to play and do all the things you like to do, just like before.

DANIEL

And you never have to come back to the hospital again. Goodbye!!

LORRIN

No. Well, you may need to come back to see your doctor for a checkup afterwards. Most importantly, if you have any new symptoms like a fever, severe belly pain, weakness, swelling or redness at the surgery scar, or maybe the feeling that you have to throw up, - then come back immediately.

DANIEL

Hope you feel better.

LORRIN

Me too!