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[Family Handout: Appendicitis Patient Roadmap](#)

Patient presents with suspected appendicitis

Calculate the Pediatric Appendicitis Score (PAS)

Order an Appendicitis Ultrasound (AUS) and a CBC with Differential

Is the PAS < 4?

Yes → Work-up alternative diagnosis or discharge home

No → Is the AUS positive for appendicitis?

Is the AUS positive for appendicitis?

Yes → Consult Surgery

No → Work-up alternative diagnosis or discharge home

Indeterminate → Is the PAS ≥ 7?

Is the PAS ≥ 7?

Yes → Consult Surgery

No → Is a CT scan necessary for a diagnosis?

Is a CT scan necessary for a diagnosis?

No → Work-up alternative diagnosis or discharge home

Yes → Obtain CT Abdomen and Pelvis with IV contrast (order as CT Appendicitis)

Obtain CT Abdomen and Pelvis with IV contrast (order as CT Appendicitis)

Is appendicitis diagnosed?

No → Work-up alternative diagnosis or discharge home

Yes → Consult Surgery

Consult Surgery

Is pt. going to OR?

Yes → Administer 1st dose antibiotics and admit for OR

No → Administer 1st dose antibiotics and admit for non-operative management

Pediatric Appendicitis Score (PAS)

Sign/Symptom	Points
Cough/percussion/heel tapping tenderness at RLQ	2
Anorexia	1
Low-grade fever ≥ 38.0° C	1
Nausea/emesis	1
RLQ tenderness on light palpation	2
Leukocytosis (>9,000/mm ³)	1
Left shift (>75% neutrophilia)	1
Migration of pain to RLQ	1

Use the PAS order to enter score into chart

Labs and AUS may be ordered concurrently

Antibiotic Regimens

- Ceftriaxone 50mg/kg IV, max 2g
 - Allergy: consider ciprofloxacin 10mg/kg IV, max 400mg
- Metronidazole 30mg/kg IV, max 1500mg

(for questions on antibiotic choices, please refer to the policy "Standing Orders for Pre-Operative and Intraoperative Antibiotics")

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Abbreviations:

AUS = Appendicitis Ultrasound

PAS = Pediatric Appendicitis Score

RLQ = Right lower quadrant