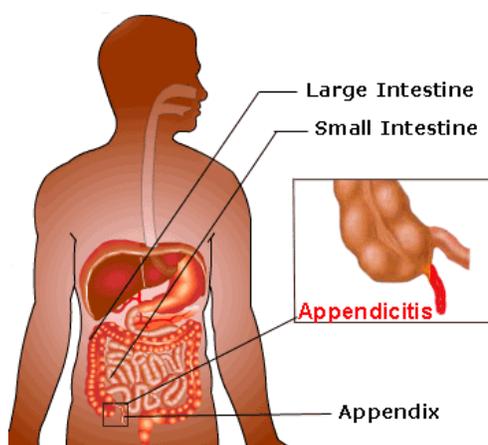
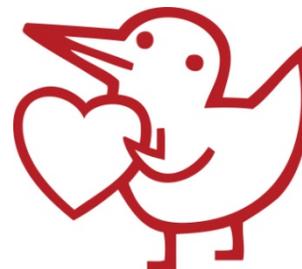


Pediatric Appendix Ultrasound

What is an appendix ultrasound?

An ultrasound may be performed to look specifically at the appendix when a doctor is concerned about appendicitis. The appendix is a pouch of tissue that is attached to the large intestine. If the appendix becomes blocked it can become swollen and infected. This process can be very painful and make a child feel sick.



How does the ultrasound work?

Ultrasound sends sound waves into the body using a transducer, a hand-held device that sends and receives sound waves. For the exam, the sonographer will apply warm gel to your child's abdomen and place the transducer against their skin to take pictures. When the sound waves reflect back to the transducer from inside the body, an image is created on the screen. Ultrasound does NOT use radiation.

How should I/my child prepare?

- No prep for this exam, but the surgeon may not want the child to eat
- Your child may need to remove his/her clothing, so it may help to have something easy to take off.
- If your child wears diapers, you may need extra diapers, as sometimes the gel gets on the diaper.
- For children who may not want to sit still, a favorite distraction or comfort item may be helpful. We do have DVD players and a large selection of movies.

**If you and your child would like a pre-procedure tour please contact Swedish's dedicated child life specialists at 206-386-6283.*

How long will it take?

30 minutes

Why would my doctor order this?

- Abdominal pain, specifically in the lower right abdomen
- Fever
- Elevated white cells (immunity cells) in the blood

What will happen during the exam?

Your child will lie on his/her back on a bed and will need to remove any clothing covering the area that needs to be scanned. The sonographer or radiologist (ultrasound doctor) will apply warm gel onto your child's abdomen. Then he/she will gently place the transducer on his/her skin. By moving the position of the transducer they will obtain the images of needed for the exam. The appendix can be very hard to see, so the sonographer/radiologist may have to push gently on your child's tummy. This can be uncomfortable, but it is helpful for the exam.

How will I get the results?

After all of the images are obtained, they are reviewed by a radiologist who specializes in ultrasound. They will send the results to your child's doctor who ordered the exam. In some cases, the radiologist may review the preliminary results with you after the exam is over.