

# Deciding Between Antibiotics & Surgery for Appendicitis: Findings from the CODA Study

First results of the CODA Study tell us that both antibiotics and surgery may be good options for treating appendicitis. Each treatment has pros and cons. If you have appendicitis, you can talk with your doctor about what is most important to you when deciding on your treatment.

	 <b>Antibiotics</b>	<b>vs</b>	 <b>Surgery</b>
<b>Good Health</b>	 After 1 month, participants rated their general health about the same in both groups.		 After 1 month, participants rated their general health about the same in both groups.
<b>Initial Time in ER &amp; Hospital</b>	 During the first visit, time spent in the ER or hospital was about the same in both groups.		 During the first visit, time spent in the ER or hospital was about the same in both groups.
<b>Symptoms Go Away</b>	 After 1 month, symptoms like pain or fever were about the same in both groups.		 After 1 month, symptoms like pain or fever were about the same in both groups.
<b>No Surgery</b>	 About 7 in 10 (71%) did not have surgery within 3 months.		 An appendectomy is surgery.
<b>No Initial Hospital Stay</b>	 About half (47%) did not have to be admitted to the hospital for their antibiotics treatment.		 Almost all (95%) participants were admitted to the hospital for their surgery.
<b>Less Work Missed</b>	 Participants missed an average of 5.3 days of work.		 Participants missed an average of 8.7 days of school or work.
<b>Fewer Healthcare Visits</b>	 9 in 100 (9%) participants needed to visit an emergency room or urgent care clinic within 3 months.		 4 in 100 (4%) participants needed to visit an emergency room or urgent care clinic within 3 months.
<b>Appendicitis Does Not Return</b>	 Appendicitis can come back if the appendix is not removed. Future CODA reports will tell us how often that happens.		 The appendix is fully removed when surgery is successful.
<b>One Time Treatment</b>	 About 3 in 10 (29%) overall had surgery within 3 months. About 4 in 10 (41%) who had an appendix stone (appendicolith) had surgery within 3 months.		 Most likely to be completed in one hospital visit.
<b>Complications (Unexpected Problems)</b>	For every 100 participants, there were about 8 problems in the antibiotics group. There were about 4 problems for every 100 participants in the surgery group. The higher number of complications in the antibiotics group was related to participants who had a small stone in their appendix, called an appendicolith.		