Acute Appendicitis with perforation

Signs & Symptoms

Pain in the RLQ of the abdomen

Vomiting

Fever

Once obstructed, the appendix fills with mucus and becomes distended, and as lymphatic and vascular compromise advances, the wall of the appendix becomes ischemic and necrotic. Bacterial overgrowth then occurs in the obstructed appendix, with aerobic organisms predominating in early appendicitis and mixed aerobes and anaerobes later in the course. Common organisms include *Escherichia coli*, *Peptostreptococcus*, *Bacteroides*, and *Pseudomonas*. Once significant inflammation and necrosis occur, the appendix is at risk of perforation, leading to a localized abscess and sometimes frank peritonitis

Diagnostics/Labs

Ultrasound

CT

Elevated WBC's

Treatment/Medication

Laparoscopic Appendectomy

Antibiotic Therapy

Nursing Implications

Daily Weights

Provide snacks

Give the PT choices on what to eat

Cool compresses to reduce pain

Positioning

Strict I/Os

Patient Teaching

Eat small frequent meals

Offer Yummy snacks

Teach parents to make food the child will eat

Encourage activity that is tolerable

Teach how to use cool compress to help reduce pain

Jones MW, Lopez RA, Deppen JG. Appendicitis. [Updated 2022 Oct 24]. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2022 Jan-. Available from: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK493193/

Priority Nursing Diagnosis

Impaired Nutrition