

# APPENDIX CANCER:

Little organ.  
Big problem.

Although it is a rare cancer, its incidence has increased drastically in recent years, particularly in people under the age of 50.

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Do least amount of surgery necessary to:

1. Get a diagnosis
2. Fix the problem
3. Assess extent of disease – particularly on small bowel and mesentery
4. Describe detailed findings in op note
5. Take pictures
6. Refer to peritoneal malignancy program
7. Offer hope

## What is appendix cancer?

Appendix cancer originates from the cells lining the lumen of the appendix. It is often not diagnosed until it is advanced, spreading beyond the appendix and into the abdomen & pelvis. With appendix cancer, this is Stage 4, challenging to treat, and depending on the type, often fatal. There are different types of tumors of the appendix depending on the type of cells involved. Different histologies exhibit different behaviors, with some being slow growing while others are more aggressive.

## Symptoms:

Symptoms can be vague and widely varied among individual patients. Some of the more common symptoms may include:

- Appendicitis
- Increased abdominal girth
- Bloating, pain or discomfort in the abdominal region
- Hernia-like symptoms
- Accumulation of ascites
- Pelvic pain mimicking fibroids, endometriosis, or ovarian cysts or tumors (appendix cancer is often misdiagnosed as ovarian cancer)

## What to do if you find it?

It is critical to get to a specialist quickly.

Treatment varies depending on the stage and subtype of the disease, as well as the extent of where the cancer spread and the organs affected (e.g., small bowel).



KNOWLEDGE  
CAN MAKE A  
POSITIVE  
IMPACT ON  
OUTCOMES  
WITH  
EARLY  
RECOGNITION.



To learn more about  
appendix cancer scan here

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