

Post-operative Complicated Appendicitis Clinical Practice Guideline

Intra-operative:
Obtain culture of intra-abdominal purulent fluid

Post-Operative: continue IV antibiotics*
1. Piperacillin/tazobactam
(if penicillin allergy → ciprofloxacin & metronidazole)
*Tailor to intra-operative culture when available
2. Scheduled APAP & NSAID (ketorolac**/ibuprofen) x72 hours (oral when able), as needed after 72 hours
**ketorolac may be given up to 5 days

Ileus present?

NO

YES

1. Clear Liquid Diet,
Advance as tolerated to
Regular Diet
2. Continue IV Antibiotics

1. NPO until return of
bowel function
2. Continue IV antibiotics

After 72 hours IV antibiotics

DISCHARGE

1. Total 10 days (IV + oral) of antibiotics*
2. Amoxicillin / clavulanate (if penicillin allergy
→ ciprofloxacin / metronidazole
*Tailor to intra-operative culture results

1. Afebrile (<37.9 C) for 48 hours
2. Tolerating regular diet
3. Ambulating
4. Pain controlled on oral APAP/ibuprofen
5. No significant or improving diarrhea
6. WBC < 12

YES

NO

Continue IV antibiotics
until parameters met

*If parameters not met by POD 5-7,
consider CBC w/ differential and US to
assess for drainable fluid collections