

Elevated WBC count ($>10,000/\text{mm}^3$) along with a high percentage of bands (left shift)

Elevated C-reactive protein (CRP)

Nursing Diagnosis

Pain, acute

Body temperature, imbalanced

Infection

Nausea

Risk for electrolyte imbalance

Risk for fluid volume deficit

Knowledge deficit

Nursing Interventions

What are the most appropriate nursing interventions for a child with appendicitis?

Nursing Interventions	Rationale
Close monitoring of the patient's status. Follow clinical and laboratory findings. Blood studies included CBC, CRP, and electrolytes.	To identify infection, signs of inflammation, changes in fluid and electrolyte status which require additional treatment
Close monitoring of diagnostic evaluation studies (i.e., computed tomography [CT] scan and/or ultrasound).	To confirm diagnosis of appendicitis
Administer intravenous (IV) fluids.	To correct fluid deficit and electrolyte imbalances
Administer analgesics as ordered.	To reduce pain
Administer antiemetics as ordered.	To reduce nausea and alleviate vomiting
Monitor temperature and vital signs.	To observe for signs of infection
Administer antipyretic medication as indicated.	To reduce fever
Administer antibiotics as ordered.	To treat infection
Maintain nothing by mouth (NPO) status.	To keep stomach empty in anticipation of possible surgery
Identify patient and family stressors that may accompany a diagnosis of appendicitis.	Providing financial and emotion support for family can help decrease some of the stressors associated with this condition
Review disease, medication, dietary restrictions.	Understanding the medical condition and therapies allows family to make informed decisions about care