

Expected Outcomes

The child will exhibit decreased pain

The child will exhibit no evidence of nausea or vomiting

The child's body temperature is within normal limits

Sufficient fluid and electrolytes are maintained

Patient/family indicate understanding of appendicitis and treatment

Case Study (Continued)

Results of the CT scan demonstrate a ruptured appendix. Lisa is now being prepared for surgery. The nurse performing the assessment finds Lisa's temperature to be elevated. Lisa reports the pain had initially resolved but she now reports increasing pain (rated 9 out of 10) and nausea.

Assessment

What concerns you most based on the scenario?

Lisa's appendix has ruptured and the reoccurrence of pain and fever is likely related to an infection or possible abscess.

What immediate steps should be taken to further evaluate Lisa's status?

Check CBC and differential

Document temperature and vital signs (pulse, respirations, blood pressure)

Assess and document location and rating of pain