



ANTIBIOTICS ALONE SUCCESSFULLY TREAT APPENDICITIS IN CHILDREN

First U.S. study compares surgery to medicine, finds that drugs work in most cases

Nationwide Children's Hospital

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SUGGESTED TEASE	<p>APPENDECTOMIES ARE THE MOST COMMON ABDOMINAL SURGERY PERFORMED IN CHILDREN, BUT IS SURGERY <i>NECESSARY</i>?</p> <p>THE SURPRISING RESULTS OF A GROUNDBREAKING STUDY, COMING UP NEXT.</p>
ANCHOR LEAD	<p>WHEN IT COMES TO APPENDICITIS, SURGERY IS THE STANDARD TREATMENT. WITHIN HOURS OF BEING DIAGNOSED, PATIENTS ALMOST ALWAYS UNDERGO SURGERY TO REMOVE THE APPENDIX.</p> <p>IN CHILDREN ALONE, THERE ARE 70-THOUSAND APPENDECTOMIES A YEAR - THAT'S ABOUT 200 DAY.¹</p> <p>BUT IS SURGERY <i>REALLY</i> NECESSARY?</p> <p>A NEW STUDY IS OUT SUGGESTING IT'S NOT ALWAYS- AND MANY CHILDREN WITH APPENDICITIS, COULD BE TREATED WITH ANTIBIOTICS ALONE. CLARK POWELL HAS DETAILS.</p>
	(Nats - Family playing board game) :02
<p>CG: Courtesy: Nationwide Children's Hospital</p> <p>Shots of family playing game</p> <p>Photos of Aria / Disney / in hospital</p>	<p>IT WAS DURING THE HOLIDAY BREAK A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO THAT THE GIBSON FAMILY PLANS NEARLY FELL APART. ARIA WAS SET TO STAR IN A SCHOOL PLAY, AND HER PARENTS HAD BOOKED A SURPRISE TRIP TO DISNEY - WHEN SUDDENLY ARIA WAS RUSHED TO THE HOSPITAL. :11</p>
<p>CG: Aubrey Gibson</p> <p>Aria's mom</p>	<p>"They checked her out and did an ultrasound and they told us that she did have appendicitis." :07</p>
<p>Shots of surgery</p> <p>Wide exterior of NCH</p> <p>Photo of Aria in hospital with IV</p>	<p>NORMALLY, THAT MEANS EMERGENCY SURGERY WITHIN HOURS AND A RECOVERY THAT CAN TAKE WEEKS.</p> <p>LUCKILY, ARIA WAS AT NATIONWIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL WHERE DOCTORS CONDUCTED THE FIRST STUDY IN THE U.S. - TO SEE IF THEY COULD <i>SKIP</i> SURGERY - AND TREAT APPENDICITIS USING ONLY ANTIBIOTICS. :14</p>
<p>CG: Pete Minneci, MD</p> <p>Nationwide Children's Hospital</p>	<p>"At least at the end of a year we know that over 3 out of 4 - more than 75 percent of kids who chose antibiotics did not have to have surgery." :07</p>

<p>Shots of doctors going over study</p>	<p>WHETHER IT IS SURGERY OR ANTIBIOTICS DOCTOR KATE DEANS AND DOCTOR PETE MINNECI (mih-NECH-ee) SAY PARENTS NEED TO PICK THE METHOD THAT BEST SUITS THEIR FAMILY.</p>
<p>CG: Kate Deans, MD Nationwide Children’s Hospital</p>	<p>“It’s really a matter of aligning your preferences, your values, your bias, what you think is most important to you, with the therapy that’s best for you and your family.” :12</p>
<p>CG: Pete Minneci, MD Nationwide Children’s Hospital</p>	<p>“If we don’t have to have surgery, if they don’t have to be in pain, if we don’t have to have the risk of surgery or anesthesia, it was worth a try.” :06</p>
<p>Shots of Aria playing game Shot of Aria in hospital</p>	<p>IT’S BEEN 2 YEARS SINCE ARIA’S BOUT WITH APPENDICITIS. SHE MAY BE TOO YOUNG TO APPRECIATE THE NOVEL APPROACH DOCTORS TOOK TO TREAT HER, BUT HER FAMILY WILL NEVER FORGET THE EXPERIENCES THEY SHARED AS A RESULT. :11</p>
<p>Aubrey Gibson (CG’d earlier) -Cover with shots on stage/ at Disney</p>	<p>“It was amazing. She was able to do her musical and then we were able to go to Disney World with no problems and we were really thankful that that was an option for us.” :10</p>
<p>CG: Aria Gibson Patient</p>	<p>“I feel great. There’s nothing -- I haven’t experienced anything else. I haven’t -- It hasn’t hurt or anything.” :06</p>
<p>Shot of family playing game</p>	<p>AT NATIONWIDE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL, THIS IS CLARK POWELL REPORTING. :03</p>
<p>ANCHOR TAG</p>	<p>THE ANTIBIOTICS-ONLY APPROACH WAS ONLY ATTEMPTED IN CASES OF SIMPLE APPENDICITIS - WHEN THE PATIENT HAD NO COMPLICATIONS AND IT HADN’T BECOME TOO SEVERE.</p> <p>PATIENTS WERE GIVEN ANTIBIOTICS THROUGH AN I-V AT THE HOSPITAL, THEN GIVEN PILLS TO TAKE AT HOME AFTERWARDS. WITHIN ONE YEAR, ONLY ONE OUT OF FOUR CHILDREN WHO CHOSE ANTIBIOTICS HAD TO HAVE THEIR APPENDIX REMOVED.¹</p> <p>EVEN THEN, THE MEDICATION-FIRST APPROACH SHOWED A SAVINGS OF HEALTHCARE COSTS OF 20-PERCENT.</p>
<p> Share it! Suggested tweet:</p>	<p>For most kids, appendicitis automatically means surgery. Should it? Study @nationwidekids says no. Details: bit.ly/1mayjE1</p>
<p> Suggested post:</p>	<p>Nearly 200 children a day undergo surgery to remove an inflamed appendix. It is the most common cause of emergency abdominal surgery in children in the U.S. But a new study suggests surgery may not always be necessary. Doctors at Nationwide Children’s Hospital treated children with appendicitis using only antibiotics, and their results are surprising. Details here: bit.ly/1mayjE1</p>

<p>References -</p>	<p>¹<i>The Effectiveness of Patient Choice in Non-Operative versus Surgical Management of Pediatric Uncomplicated Acute Appendicitis</i>, New England Journal of Medicine Surgery, Vol. 150 No. 12, December 2015. Online: http://archsurg.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=2475977</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Extra Bites</p>
<p>CG: Pete Minneci, MD Nationwide Children’s Hospital</p>	<p><i>Dr. Minneci talks about how quickly children felt better with antibiotics -</i> “We had a couple children who left the hospital and then the next day were participating in sporting events, or one was participating in a competitive cheerleading competition.”</p> <p><i>Dr. Minneci talks about cost savings with the medication-first approach -</i> “And then just in terms of cost savings, even when you factor in the patients who failed nonoperative management, so those in the hospital and those who came back during the year, it was still 20 percent cheaper to the healthcare system to have the option of nonoperative management.”</p> <p><i>Dr. Minneci talks about the reaction parents had to the antibiotic option -</i> “Most of the parents were surprised to hear that. And still today some are surprised to hear that surgery is not always necessary because it’s so ingrained in our medical system that if you have appendicitis you need an appendectomy.”</p>
<p>CG: Kate Deans, MD Nationwide Children’s Hospital</p>	<p><i>Dr. Deans talks about the inspiration for the study -</i> “We were noticing that patients would come in and be placed on antibiotics and have their surgery the next day. And you go to see them the next day and parents would ask, do we have to have surgery? The pain’s gone.”</p> <p><i>Dr. Deans talks about the idea behind the antibiotic-only approach -</i> “We begin to think, well hmm, maybe we could wait. Maybe we don’t need to do the appendectomy”</p> <p><i>Dr. Deans talks about children who qualify for this approach -</i> “This is early appendicitis. Can we just bring you into the hospital, give you some antibiotics, in your IV, and see if the pain gets better, and you get better? And if you do, then we’re able to send you home, with just antibiotics.”</p>
<p>CG: Aubrey Gibson Aria’s mom</p>	<p><i>Aubrey talks about her daughter’s concerns over surgery -</i> “She didn’t want to have surgery because she was going to be in a play that next week and she had a starring role so she really didn’t want to have to miss for that.”</p> <p><i>Aubrey talks about the poor timing of her daughter’s appendicitis -</i> “The kids didn’t know it at the time but we were planning on going to Disney World for Christmas so we were also really worried about that because the date had just passed for us to get a refund.”</p> <p><i>Aubrey talks about her daughter’s recovery -</i> “She’s never had a problem since then. It was amazing.”</p>

<p>CG: Aria Gibson Patient</p>	<p><i>Aria talks about the onset of her symptoms -</i> “I couldn't move my legs -- If i did it would like it would hurt it hurt so bad and I was like ‘Mom I can't move my legs’, she was like ‘Yeah, you can’, I was like ‘No, I can't!’”</p> <p><i>Aria talks about the trip to the hospital -</i> “Well when we got on the highway you know it's kind of bumpy and stuff, and so it jolted me and it hurt really really bad and I just got like really sick.”</p> <p><i>Aria talks about the timing of her appendicitis -</i> “I was worried about the play, you know I had worked really hard for the spot and I had auditioned for it and I just, I didn't want it to be taken by someone else.”</p>
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