



The Medical **Bulletin**

In Abdomen

A Patient with Acute Appendicitis Usually Has a Loss of Appetite

If the patient is hungry, a diagnosis of acute appendicitis should be questioned.

That patients with appendicitis have usually lost their appetites is a confirmed clinical pearl. In a study of 267 patients operated upon for acute appendicitis,

Gonclaves et al. found that 86% had anorexia.

Perhaps the “stick in the memory” pearl is:

Beware of opening the belly of the hungry patient.

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