



THE DOCTOR SAYS Appendicitis Hard To Detect In Young

By W. G. BRANDSTADT, M.D.
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Why do we have an appendix? This little blind alley is an offshoot of the junction of the large and small intestines. It may have served a purpose in our prehistoric ancestors, but its main function now is that of occasional trouble-maker.

Although operations for appendicitis are not as common as they were 50 years ago, the disease still occurs. Although it is not as common in persons under 15 years of age as it is in those who are older, it still occurs in young children and infants.

The importance of appendicitis in children lies in the fact that the disease is harder to recognize in children. When appropriate treatment is delayed, serious complications may lead to death.

The reason it is hard to recognize in children and infants is that they cannot communicate their feelings as accurately as adults and their symptoms are much more variable.

For example, the infant with appendicitis does not always have a fever or a severe pain in the abdomen. Some abdominal pain, often mild, is almost always present and the child usually vomits at least once. More commonly, the child generally is irritable, restless and refuses to go to sleep. These are vague symptoms, and do not prove that the appendix is to blame.

If your child is irritable, and feeding him makes him worse, you should call your doctor.

I want to stress this because an inflamed appendix can become obstructed and the resulting abscess can burst in less than 24 hours from the onset.

When the appendix bursts, infection spreads throughout the abdominal cavity. The result is peritonitis and this is still a serious and often fatal complication. Although your child's irritability may be only a touch of colic, a cold or the measles, you cannot afford to take a chance.

Since feeding a child who has appendicitis can make him worse, he should not be fed. Giving him a laxative is even more dangerous because it causes all the muscles of the digestive tract to contract. Contraction of the muscles of the appendix induced by giving a laxative has caused many an inflamed appendix to burst. If the child has been taking antibiotics for any reason, this may so mask the symptoms as to make an early diagnosis almost impossible.

Because of the potential risks, therefore, surgical removal of the appendix should be undertaken as an emergency as soon as the diagnosis is made.

Appendicitis is definitely less common in children than it was 40 years ago, complications are less commonly seen and the death rate is lower.

Dirksen Doubts Key Bills Will Be Passed This Year

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Senate Republican Leader Everett M. Dirksen predicted Saturday that the Senate would not pass either of President Kennedy's "big" bills this year — civil rights or the tax cut.

Dirksen said it would take until about the middle of December to finish public hearings on the \$11 billion tax cut measure, then "at least three weeks" to draft language in closed session.

"I think it is a fair bet that there cannot, just mechanically cannot, be a tax bill this year"

the Illinois legislator said in a radio interview with Sen. Jack R. Miller, R-Iowa.

The Senate Finance Committee, where the bill has languished since the House passed it Sept. 25, published a list of witnesses Friday that will carry its public hearings on the measure through Dec. 13, one week before Congress' Christmas vacation begins. Thus far, the committee has completed four weeks of hearings on the high priority administration bill.

Instant 'Home Brew' Possible, But Not Probable

By DICK WEST
WASHINGTON (UPI) — Perhaps you have been dreaming of a brave new world where you can go to the kitchen sink, turn on a water spigot, open a box of capsules and mix yourself a glass of "instant beer."

If so, you are in for a rude awakening.

It is my sad duty to report that this type of home brewing, while theoretically possible, is not likely to come about any time soon.

For one thing, the Internal Revenue Service is against it on grounds that it would enormously complicate the collection of beer taxes.

For another, there are fears that turning the United States into a nation of do-it-yourself brewmasters would create further turmoil in the beer industry, which has enough troubles already.

It appears, therefore, that in the foreseeable future beer drinkers will have to be content to buy the stuff in bottles and cans.

The pros and cons of instant beer came up for discussion recently at a hearing by the House Ways & Means Committee on the taxation of beer concentrates.

Beginning next month, the revenue service will, for the first time, permit beer companies to ship beer in concentrated form from one place to another.

Under the new regulations, a

brewery can whip up a batch of beer, remove a portion of the water by a freezing process, and send what is left to a bottling plant.

At that point the water would be put back again and the reconstituted beer would then be bottled and sold.

Like most innovations, the concept of instant beer has become hotly controversial. Even the use of the term "instant" is an issue in the dispute.

At the committee hearing, spokesmen for the Union Carbide Corp., which developed the quick freeze process, and the Miller Brewing Co., which intends to use it, pictured instant

beer as the greatest thing since sarsaparilla.

They contend that reduced transportation costs for concentrates would make it possible for American breweries to compete in overseas markets for the first time.

The committee was assured that reconstituted beer would be as tasty as ever, if not more so, and that the flavor would last even longer.

On the other hand, spokesmen for the Pabst Brewing Co., and for an association of small breweries insisted that instant beer would create havoc in the

industry and promote monopolies.

The way it looks now, this

argument could go on for years. So I think I'll go out for a short beer.

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