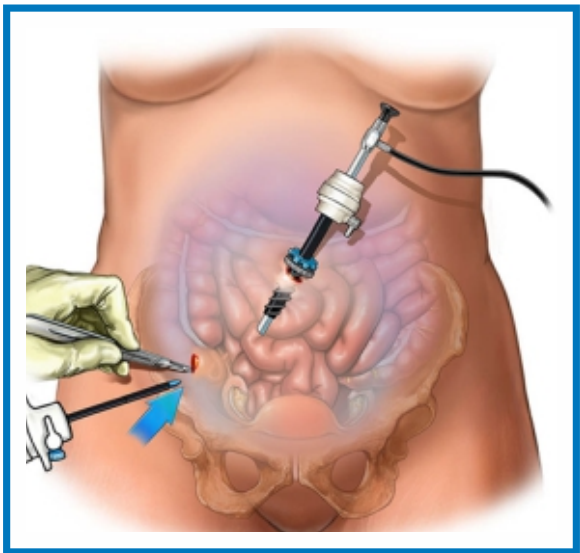


Laparoscopic Surgery

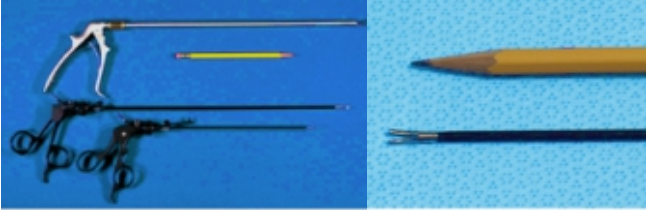


(Key-hole Surgery)

What is laparoscopic surgery?

Laparoscopic surgery refers to a special technique by which the surgeon performs the surgery through several small holes in the abdomen with the aid of a camera. It is also known as “minimally invasive surgery”. In the past, this technique was commonly used for gynecologic surgery and for gallbladder surgery. Over the last 10 years the use of this technique has expanded into gastrointestinal surgery, hernia, liver and for surgery for pancreas. In traditional “open” surgery the surgeon uses a single incision to enter into the abdomen. Laparoscopic surgery uses several 0.5-1cm incisions. Each incision is called a “port.” At each port a tubular instrument known as a trochar is inserted. Specialized instruments and a special camera known as a laparoscope are passed through the trochars during the procedure. At the beginning of the procedure, the abdomen is inflated with carbon dioxide gas to provide a working and viewing space for the surgeon. The laparoscope transmits images from the abdominal cavity to high-resolution video monitors in the operating room. During the operation the surgeon watches detailed images of the abdomen on the monitor.

This system allows the surgeon to perform the same operations as traditional surgery but with smaller incisions.



Small laparoscopic instruments

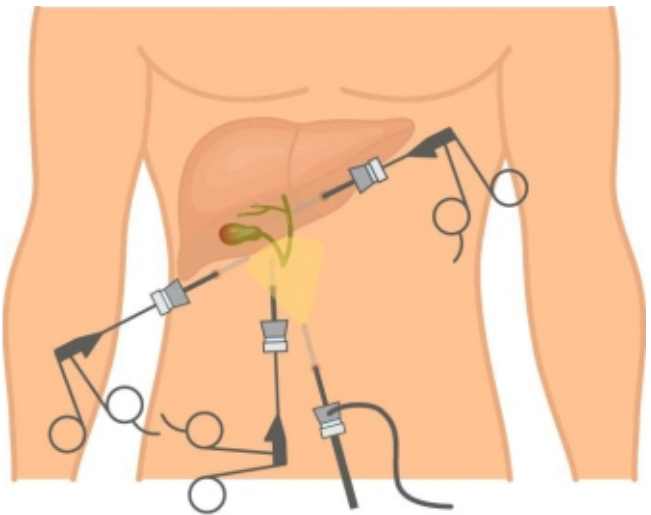
What advantages does laparoscopic surgery have over conventional surgery?

Laparoscopic surgery usually results in reduced hospital stays, fewer wound infections, less pain and a faster recovery time. From a surgeon's perspective, laparoscopic surgery may allow for easier dissection of abdominal scar tissue (adhesions), less surgical trauma and improved outcomes in certain groups like the elderly and extremely overweight individuals.



What are the indications for laparoscopic surgery?

These days, many surgeries that were once performed “open” can be performed laparoscopically. The laparoscopic surgeon can operate upon many organs- including but not limited to the colon, small intestine, stomach, hernia, gallbladder, liver and pancreas. Any previous surgery can create scar tissue in the abdomen making a laparoscopic procedure more technically difficult. The surgeon would decide if a laparoscopic approach is the best choice for you.



Small incisions of laparoscopy

What kind of operations can be performed using laparoscopic surgery?

Laparoscopic surgery is used for performing surgery in the following areas:

- Laparoscopic cholecystectomy (surgery for gallstones)
- Laparoscopic appendectomy
- Laparoscopic hernia surgery (groin hernia, ventral hernia, incisional hernia)
- Laparoscopic hiatal hernia repair
- Laparoscopic treatment of heartburn/ reflux (Nissen, Toupet fundoplication)
- Laparoscopic treatment of achalasia (Heller myotomy, Dor fundoplication)
- Laparoscopic bowel resection
- Laparoscopic colorectal surgery (for diverticulitis, cancer, inflammatory bowel disease)
- Laparoscopic liver surgery
- Laparoscopic pancreatic surgery
- Laparoscopic stomach surgery
- Laparoscopic splenectomy
- Laparoscopic lymph node biopsy



How safe is laparoscopic surgery?

Laparoscopic surgery is as safe as traditional open surgery. At the beginning of a laparoscopic operation the laparoscope is inserted through a small incision near the belly button (umbilicus). The surgeon initially inspects the abdomen to determine whether laparoscopic surgery may be safely performed. If there is a severe of inflammation or if the surgeon encounters other factors that prevent a clear view of the structures, the surgeon may need to make a larger incision in order to complete the operation safely. Any surgery is associated with certain risks such as complications related to anesthesia and bleeding or infectious complications. The risk of any operation is determined in part by the nature of the specific operation. An individual's general health and other medical conditions are also factors that affect the risk of any operation. You should discuss with your surgeon your individual risk for any operation.



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