

What is Laparoscopic Surgery?

Traditional or 'open' operations

Traditionally, during an abdominal operation the surgeon makes a 'cut' or an 'incision' to approach the diseased part. This means cutting through muscles of the abdominal wall. At the end of the operation, the layers that have been divided are stitched together. Longer the incision more is the pain the patient suffers after the operation and longer is the scar.

Disadvantages of 'open' operations

Some of the drawbacks of open operations include:

- More postoperative pain,
- Longer hospitalisation,
- Slower overall recovery,
- Prolonged time taken to get back to normal activities and work &
- Increased risk of respiratory complications like pneumonia and infection in the wound.

What is laparoscopic surgery?

Laparoscopic operations are performed through tiny incisions no longer than 1/2 cm or 1 cm. The total length of the incisions is only about 4 cm! Furthermore, the same four incisions are adequate for performing the operation irrespective of the body habitus of the patients – tall or short, fat or slim.

How is a laparoscopic operation performed?

During laparoscopic operations the surgeon makes a small (about 1-cm) incision and places a short tube called a cannula through the abdominal wall. This cannula is connected to a special pump that pumps carbon dioxide gas. As the abdomen gets filled up with the gas, the abdominal wall is lifted up, thus providing the surgeon a space to work in. To look inside the abdomen, the surgeon passes a rod-like telescope through the cannula. The telescope is connected to a miniature video camera that picks up the picture of the inside of the abdomen and transmits it to a television screen. The surgeon then carries out the operation with the help of special, long instruments introduced inside the abdomen through other cannulas and by observing the picture of the operative site on the television screen. It is important to appreciate that the actual laparoscopic operation being carried out is more or less identical to the open procedure. The major difference is that the steps are performed with the help of specialized equipment and therefore can be carried out through small incisions.

What are the advantages of laparoscopic surgery?

- Less pain from the incisions after surgery
- Shorter hospital stay
- Shorter recovery time
- Faster return to normal diet
- Faster return to work or normal activity
- Better cosmetic healing

Prepared by
Dr Deepraj Bhandarkar
www.laparoscopyindia.com

Disclaimer

This brochure is for information purpose only and no attempt to provide specific medical advice is intended. It is not intended to infer that surgery is always the best choice for a particular condition. You should always contact a specialist directly for diagnosis and treatment of your specific problem, and consider taking a second opinion if appropriate.