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## OPERATIVE LAPAROSCOPY

### **What is operative laparoscopy?**

An operative laparoscopy is a procedure in which the doctor performs surgery on your pelvic organs using a laparoscope (a thin tube with a light). The doctor looks at your pelvis and removes abnormal structures.

### **When is it performed?**

This operation may be performed because the doctor knows you some gynecological problem.

Examples of alternatives are:

- Having an abdominal surgical procedure
- Choosing not to have treatment

You should ask your doctor about these choices.

### **How do I prepare for an operative laparoscopy?**

Plan for your care and recovery after the operation. Allow for time to rest and try to find other people to help you with your day-to-day duties.

Follow instructions provided by your doctor. The day before perform the **phosphosoda bowel prep (see these instructions)**, which included only clear liquids the day before your surgery. Do not eat or drink anything after midnight and the morning before the procedure. If you are taking any heart or blood pressure medication, please take them with a sip of water.

### **What happens during the procedure?**

You are given a general anesthetic, which relaxes your muscles, makes you feel as if you are in a deep sleep, and prevents you from feeling pain.

Your peritoneal cavity will be inflated with carbon dioxide gas. This will expand your peritoneal cavity like a balloon and help the doctor see your organs. The doctor makes a small cut in your belly button, puts a laparoscope through this cut, and puts another instrument through two small cuts in the lower abdomen. The laparoscope is used to guide the other instrument to perform the surgery. In the end the doctor removes the laparoscope and the instrument and closes the small incisions with surgical glue or suture.

### **What happens after the procedure?**

You may stay in the hospital a few hours to recover. The anesthetic will probably cause a little sleepiness or grogginess for a while. You may have some shoulder pain, feel bloated, or find a change in your bowel habits for a few days. You may not be able to urinate right away and may have a catheter (a small tube) placed into your bladder through the urethra (the tube from the bladder to the outside) for a few days. You should avoid heavy activity such as lifting. You should ask your doctor how much you should lift. Ask your doctor what steps you should take and when you should come back for a checkup.

### **What are the benefits of this procedure?**

Gynecological surgery can be performed without major abdominal surgery with its longer hospital stay and recovery time, discomfort, and greater expense.

### **What are the risks associated with this procedure?**

- There are some risks when you have general anesthesia. Discuss these risks with your doctor.
- The abdominal organs, glands, intestines, or blood vessels may be damaged. The doctor may perform abdominal surgery to repair them at the time of the laparoscopy.
- The lining of the abdominal wall may become inflamed.
- A blood clot may break off, enter the bloodstream, and clog an artery in the lung, pelvis, or leg. Rarely, a clot may break off and clog an artery in the heart or brain, causing a heart attack or stroke.
- Sterilization can occur if both ovaries are damaged.
- You may develop an infection or bleeding.
- There may be some pain after the procedure.

You should ask your doctor how these risks apply to you.

**When should I call the doctor? 727 843 9350**

Call the doctor immediately if:

- You develop a fever.
- You become dizzy and faint.
- You experience nausea and vomiting.
- You become suddenly short of breath.
- You have abdominal pain or swelling that gets worse.

Call the doctor during office hours if:

- You have any questions about the procedure or its result.
- You want to make another appointment.