



Department of Surgery

Laparoscopy (keyhole surgery)

Post-operative information for patients, parents and carers

Introduction

Laparoscopy can be used for hundreds of different procedures - some very minor and some very major. You will have received information about the particular procedure that your child will be having. The aim of this leaflet is to provide information about the post-operative risks of laparoscopic surgery so parents and carers will know when to seek help.

How is laparoscopic surgery performed?

Three to four small cuts are made in the child's abdomen. Carbon dioxide gas is then used to inflate the abdomen so that the surgeon can get a good view of the internal organs. A laparoscope (a long thin camera) is then inserted through one of the small cuts so that the organ that is being operated on can be seen. Special instruments are then put through the other small cuts so that the operation can be performed.

Occasionally the operation cannot be performed using the laparoscope so the operation is changed to an open operation. This is where a larger cut is placed on the abdomen through which the surgeon can operate using their hands.

At the end of the operation the small holes are closed with dissolving stitches, which will not need to be removed.

What should I look out for after the operation?

Most laparoscopic operations have no post operative problems, but there are signs that you will have to look out for after your child has gone home.

Infection: An infection can occur after the operation. Look out for signs of redness or a yellowish discharge from the wounds. If this occurs your child will need to be treated with antibiotics by your doctor.

Bleeding Bleeding can occur after the operation. Although this is rare your child may need another operation or blood transfusion. If your child becomes very pale or appears unwell after the operation take them to your nearest Accident and Emergency Department.

Intestinal injury The instruments used to perform the operation can sometimes damage other parts of bowel. Normally this is noticed during the operation and repaired. However it may only present after the operation is finished and you are back home. If your child has increasing or persistent abdominal pain or is having temperatures and appears unwell - take them to your nearest Accident and Emergency Department.

If you require further information please ask your surgeon on the day of your child's surgery

This fact sheet only gives general information. You must always discuss the individual treatment of your child with the appropriate member of staff. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about your child's treatment.

This information can be made available in other languages and formats if requested.

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