

Laparoscopy is a surgery that uses a thin, lighted tube put through a cut (incision) in the belly to look at the abdominal organs or the female pelvic organs. Laparoscopy is used to find and treat problems such as endometriosis, ovarian cysts, adhesions, uterine fibroids and infection. In many cases laparoscopy can be done instead of laparotomy surgery that uses a larger incision in the belly. Laparoscopy can be less stressful and may have less problems and lower costs than laparotomy for minor surgeries. It can often be done without needing to stay overnight in the hospital.

Please call our office for an appointment to discuss this procedure with a medical doctor.

A Laparoscopy may be performed to:

- Check for and treat conditions such as endometriosis, ectopic pregnancy or pelvic inflammatory disease (PID).
- Find conditions that can make it hard for a woman to become pregnant. These conditions include ovarian cysts, adhesions, fibroids, and infection. Laparoscopy may be done after initial infertility tests do not show the cause for the infertility.
- Do a tubal ligation.
- Take out organs, such as the uterus, spleen, gallbladder (laparoscopic cholecystectomy), ovaries, or appendix (appendectomy). Partial removal (resection) of the colon also can also be done

What to expect during and after the procedure:

- Laparoscopy is done by a surgeon. General anesthesia is used.
 - Laparoscopy takes 1-2 hours depending on what is done. It can take longer if a condition (such as endometriosis) is found and treated.
 - About an hour before the surgery, you will empty your bladder. You will get fluids and medicine through an intravenous (IV) in a vein in your arm. You may get a medicine (sedative) to help you relax.
 - An airway tube will be placed in your throat to protect your airway while you are under general anesthesia.
 - Your bladder is usually emptied after you go to sleep. Long surgical cases may require a catheter.
 - Your belly and pelvic area will be washed with a special soap.
 - After the procedure you will be in recovery for 2-4 hours.
 - You can usually resume normal activities in 2 days. No strenuous activity or exercise for at least one week.
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