

Ovarian Removal (Oophorectomy)

Technique

Procedure involves the removal of the entire ovary. The procedure can include removal of one ovary (unilateral) or both ovaries (bilateral). This procedure can be completed either by a laparotomy (abdominal incision) or by laparoscopy (multiple small incisions). Your surgeon will determine which is right for you and your problem.

Incisions

Laparotomy - An incision is made on the abdomen for this procedure. The size of the incision is determined by the size of your uterus and the abdominal exposure needed. The incision will either be vertical (from the belly button down to the pubic bone) or horizontal ("bikini cut").

Laparoscopy - 3-4 small incisions (less than one inch) are made on the abdomen.

Operative Time

Operative times vary greatly depending on the findings at the time of surgery. Your surgeon will proceed with safety as his/her first priority. Average times range from 45-90 minutes.

Anesthesia

Spinal anesthesia or
General anesthesia

Preoperative Care

Nothing by mouth after midnight

The procedure is usually scheduled immediately after your menstrual period.

Hospital Stay

Day Surgery or
23-hour observation
1-3 day hospital stay (laparotomy)

Postoperative Care

These guidelines are intended to give you a general idea of your postoperative course. Since every patient is unique and has a unique procedure, your recovery may differ.

Anti-inflammatory pain medicine is usually required for the first several days to manage soreness and inflammation.

Narcotic pain medicine will be provided to assist with the discomfort from the incisions.

We recommend that anti-inflammatory medications, such as ibuprofen, naproxen, etc., be used on a scheduled (regular) basis and that narcotic pain medicine be utilized on an "as needed" basis.

Driving is allowed after your procedure only when you do not require the narcotic pain medicine to manage your pain.

Patients may return to work in 5-7 days following the procedure.

Incisions may bruise but they should not become red or inflamed.

If both of your ovaries are removed, you may require hormone replacement therapy. Your surgeon will discuss hormone replacement with you.