

Diagnostic Laparoscopy Fact Sheet

Technique

- Procedure involves the placement of a laparoscope (special telescope with a video camera attached) into the abdomen at the belly button. The entire pelvis – including the uterus, fallopian tubes, ovaries, bladder and appendix – are all examined to determine the source of the patient's problem.
- The treatment needed is determined based on what the surgeon sees during this exam.

Incisions

2-3 small incisions (less than one inch) are made on the abdomen for this procedure.

Operative Time

- Operative times vary greatly depending on the findings at the time of surgery. Your surgeon will proceed with safety as his/her priority.
- Average times range from 30-60 minutes.

Anesthesia

General anesthesia

Preoperative Care

- Nothing by mouth after midnight
- The procedure is usually scheduled immediately after your menstrual period.

Hospital Stay

Day surgery

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 such as ibuprofen or naproxen is usually required for the first several days to manage soreness and inflammation.
- Opioid pain medicine will be provided to assist with discomfort from the small incisions.
- Driving is allowed after your procedure once you no longer need the opioid 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.

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