

What is Laparoscopic Surgery?

Laparoscopic surgery also known as minimally invasive surgery or keyhole surgery is a specialized modern technique of performing operations in the abdomen through small incisions of usually 0.5 to 1.5 cm size. Laparoscopic surgery is usually performed within the abdominal or pelvic cavities. Laparoscopic surgery performed in thoracic or chest cavity is called thoracoscopic surgery.

Laparoscopic surgery is usually performed through small (0.5 to 1.5 cm) incision in to the belly button of patient under general anesthesia in the operation theatre. A camera is mounted at the end of a long tube called laparoscope having thickness of around one's first finger which is placed through the small incision in to the abdominal cavity this would help to visualize the internal abdominal organs on monitor. The carbon dioxide gas is used to expand the abdominal cavity so that internal organs can be visualized easily.

Advantages:

There are a number of advantages of performing laparoscopic surgery over the open surgery where a larger incision is required.

- Less chances of bleeding minimizing the need of blood transfusion
- Smaller incision is required in laparoscopic surgery which reduces the pain after surgery and also shortens the recovery time
- Post operative scars are less common
- Less pain thereby less pain medications required
- Hospital stay is less and often same day discharge is possible
- Patient can return to normal life faster
- There is a less scope of external exposure thereby less chances of acquiring infection

Disadvantages:

Laparoscopic surgery is certainly advantageous in terms of patient outcomes, it is more difficult from the surgeon's perspective compared to traditional open surgery.

- Due to limited scope of motion at the surgical site result in loss of dexterity
- Depth perception is poor
- There is an increased risk of damaging the tissues as it is difficult to judge accurately how much force is needed to perform specific action
- Some surgery requires the area to be opened up to better address the issue at hand in this regard laparoscopic surgery is not useful