

# Laparoscopic and Robotic Surgery

## Minimally invasive surgery

Laparoscopic surgery is done with a camera and special surgical instruments. It can reduce healing time and pain because the incisions are smaller than in traditional surgery.

### What is laparoscopy?

Laparoscopy is a surgery done with a camera that is placed in the stomach area.

During a laparoscopic surgery, your child's belly (abdomen) is filled with carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). This creates a space or a bubble in which to do surgery.

### How is it done?

Surgery is performed by watching a TV monitor and moving surgical instruments from outside of your child's body.

Laparoscopic surgery is done by making 3 to 5 small "keyhole" incisions on your child's body. The surgeon inserts small, thin tubes through these incisions. These tubes hold a video camera and surgical instruments.

### What are the benefits?

- Smaller incisions
- Less pain after surgery
- Shorter hospital stays and a quicker return to normal activities are possible

### How is a robot used in surgery?

The da Vinci Robot system is used at Seattle Children's Hospital for more complex general surgery and urology surgeries. The da Vinci robot is computer-assisted and allows the surgeon to see three-dimensional views. The surgeon can only see two-dimensional views with traditional laparoscopic surgery.

### How do I care for my child after surgery?

The average length of stay in the hospital after a laparoscopic or robotic surgery is 2 to 4 days.

When home from the hospital, your child will need to drink plenty of fluids. We will tell you what activities your child should avoid and for how long. Your child may bathe or shower 24 hours after surgery.

### To Learn More

- Urology 206-987-2509
- General surgery 206-987-2794
- Your child's healthcare provider
- [www.seattlechildrens.org](http://www.seattlechildrens.org)

### When do I call the doctor?

- Fever over 101.5°F for more than 24 hours
- Redness and swelling that spreads from the incisions
- Severe, constant pain
- Vomiting
- Not able to pee for 8 to 12 hours
- Bleeding or drainage from the incision

### Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your child's nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.

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Seattle Children's offers interpreter services for Deaf, hard of hearing or non-English speaking patients, family members and legal representatives free of charge. Seattle Children's will make this information available in alternate formats upon request. Call the Family Resource Center at 206-987-2201.

This handout has been reviewed by clinical staff at Seattle Children's. However, your child's needs are unique. Before you act or rely upon this information, please talk with your child's healthcare provider.

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