



Laparoscopic and Robotic Surgery

Minimally invasive surgery

What is laparoscopy?

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

During a laparoscopic surgery, your child's abdomen is filled with carbon dioxide (CO₂). 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 three to five 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 for the procedure.

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 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 does my child prepare for laparoscopic or robotic surgery?

We may prescribe a laxative for your child to take the day before surgery to clean out their intestinal tract. Your child will receive anesthesia the day of surgery. You will receive instructions about when to stop feeding your child solid foods and clear liquids the day before 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.

To Learn More

- Urology
206-987-2509
- Your child's
healthcare provider
- www.seattlechildrens.org

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.
- For Deaf and hard of hearing callers:
206-987-2280 (TTY).

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.

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
- Inability to pee for 8 to 12 hours
- Bleeding or drainage from the incision