

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 (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 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
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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.

We will partner with you and your child to prevent and relieve pain as completely as possible through the combination of medicine and other strategies to treat pain.

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.

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To Learn More

- Urology
206-987-2509
- General Surgery
206-987-2794
- Ask your child's healthcare provider
- seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your 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.



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