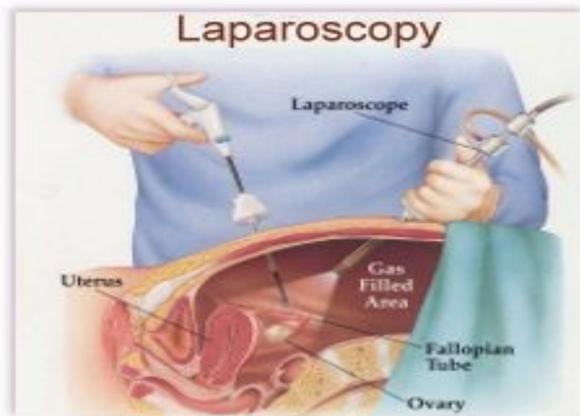


Laparoscopy

WHAT IS A LAPAROSCOPY?

Laparoscopy is a surgical procedure that involves looking directly into your abdomen and pelvis using a small (0.5 cm) camera that is placed through an incision in your umbilicus. This allows your doctor to evaluate and potentially treat gynecologic problems such as scar tissue (adhesions), endometriosis, and ovarian cysts that may affect fertility. For this operation you will require an anesthetic (you will be asleep), but in most cases you will go home the same day.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

There is a slight risk of infection (less than 1%) which is usually minor and can be treated with antibiotics. Uncommon (1/1000 cases) but potentially serious complications including but not limited to injuries to the bowel (intestines), bladder, blood vessels and ureters have been reported with laparoscopy. Such complications may require further surgery to repair.

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR THE LAPAROSCOPY?

The surgery centre will be calling you 2 days prior to your surgery date to confirm the time you need go to the centre.

It is important that you are **not pregnant at the time of your surgery**. We suggest that you either use birth control (eg. condoms) or abstain from intercourse for one month prior to you surgery. You will be asked to do a pregnancy blood test 2 to 3 days before your surgery to confirm that you are not pregnant.

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER THE SURGERY

Getting Home: After an anesthetic you are considered legally 'impaired' and are unable to drive a car for 24 hours. You will need to have a friend/family member drive you home from the hospital.

Incision care: You will have 2 to 4 small incisions in your abdomen. Two days after your surgery, your incisions are 'sealed' and it is safe to shower if you wish. At that time you can remove the outer bandage. Leave the inner bandages (Steri-Strips®) in place for 5-7 days after your surgery, if possible.

Pain: You will have some minor discomfort from you skin incisions in the first week after surgery. You can take pain medications such as Ibuprophen 600 mg every 6 hours and/or Tylenol® 650 mg every 4 hours. You will also be given a prescription for Tylenol® #3 if you are not allergic to this medication.

Most women experience bloating, abdominal discomfort and/or back and shoulder pain for 2-3 days after surgery. This is normal and is related to gas used to distend your abdomen during the surgery. This pain should **NOT** be severe and should gradually improve over 2-3 days.

I Should Call Dr. Taylor If I Have:

- Pain not controlled with pain medications listed above
- Worsening pain beyond 24-48 hours after surgery
- Nausea and vomiting
- Concerns regarding skin infection (increasing pain, redness or discharge from the incisions)

Daytime and Non-urgent questions please call Genesis at (604) 879-3032 ext 264 or email Dr. Taylor at btaylor@genesis-fertility.com.

For **urgent problems after business hours**, please go to the nearest emergency department.