



Cholecystectomy

Surgical Removal of the Gallbladder

Patient Education

This educational information is to help you be better informed about your operation and empower you with the skills and knowledge needed to actively participate in your care.

Keeping You Informed

Information that will help you further understand your operation.

Education is provided on:

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The Condition

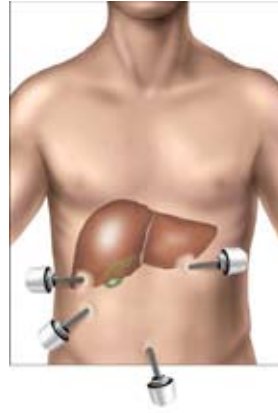
Cholecystectomy is the surgical removal of the gallbladder. The operation is done to remove gallstones or to remove an infected or inflamed gallbladder.

Common symptoms

- Sharp pain in the upper center or right abdomen
- Low fever
- Nausea and feeling bloated

Laparoscopic versus Open Cholecystectomy

Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy



Open Cholecystectomy



Treatment Options

Surgery

Laparoscopic cholecystectomy—The gallbladder is removed with instruments placed into 4 small slits in the abdomen.

Open cholecystectomy—The gallbladder is removed through an incision on the right side under the rib cage.

Nonsurgical

- Stone retrieval

For gallstones without symptoms

- Watchful waiting
- Increased exercise
- Diet changes

Benefits and Risks

Benefits and Risk

Gallbladder removal will relieve pain, treat infection, and in most cases stop gallstones from coming back. The risks of not having surgery are the possibility of worsening symptoms, infection, or bursting of the gallbladder.

Possible complications include bleeding, bile duct injury, fever, liver injury, infection, numbness, raised scars, hernia at the incision, anesthesia complications, puncture of the intestine, and death.

Expectations

Before your operation—Evaluation usually includes blood work, an abdominal ultrasound, and an evaluation by your surgeon and anesthesia provider to review your health history and medications and to discuss pain control options.

The day of your operation—You will not eat or drink for at least 4 hours before the operation. Most often you will take your normal medication with a sip of water.

Your recovery—If you have no complications, you are often discharged home the same day after a laparoscopic procedure and in 2 to 3 days after an open procedure. **Call your surgeon** if you are in severe pain, have stomach cramping, a high fever or chills, your skin turns yellow, or there is odor and increased drainage from your incision.

This first page is an overview. For more detailed information, review the entire document.