

LAPAROSCOPIC CHOLECYSTECTOMY

Information

Laparoscopic cholecystectomy is the removal of your gallbladder by keyhole surgery, most commonly to treat gallstones. Your surgeon discussed all the benefits and complications of the surgery with you, and you have chosen surgery as the right option for you.

What to Expect

You will be told when and where to present for your operation. Please have nothing to eat or drink after midnight unless instructed otherwise. Use the pre-operative wash provided and do not shave the operation field.

The surgery is performed under a general anaesthetic and usually takes about one hour, but may take longer.

Post-Op Instruction

You can have a normal diet after the operation. You will have a dull ache or pain at the operation sites and will be instructed to take paracetamol and or ibuprofen regularly. Refrain from strenuous exercise or heavy work for at least 1-2 weeks.

You will be given an out patient appointment in about 2 weeks by your surgeon to check the pathology results of your gallbladder and make sure you are recovering well.

What to Look Out For

- Severe abdominal pain despite pain relief.
- Jaundice.
- Fever above 38 degrees celsius.
- Shortness of breath.
- Swelling and pain in your calves.
- Redness and swelling at surgical sites.

If any of the above occur, call Great Southern Specialist Centre or present to the Emergency Department at the Albany Hospital (or the ED nearest to you); your surgeon will be informed.