



Laparoscopy

A lot of new techniques are available to physicians to treat surgical problems. Laparoscopy, while not new (it's been around for over 60 years), is becoming a more widely accepted safe alternative to traditional "open" surgery. Many surgeries, which formerly required a large incision, can now be performed using small incisions (around ½ to 2 inches long.) While this appeals to patients because of a much better cosmetic outcome, it also appeals to surgeons because patients recover faster, often leave the hospital faster, have fewer internal scars, and can often return to their normal activity much more quickly.

Different types of surgeries are now being performed with laparoscopy. These include gallbladder removal (cholecystectomy), appendix removal (appendectomy), colon removal (colectomy), fallopian tubal ligation, uterus and ovary removal (hysterectomy and salpingo-oophrectomy), spleen removal (splenectomy), adrenal gland removal (adrenalectomy), gastric bypass and gastric banding, and so much more. The list continues to grow!

This does not mean that laparoscopic surgery is meant for every patient or every surgeon to perform. As far as patient selection goes, patients who have had multiple complicated abdominal operations or infections are often inappropriate candidates for laparoscopic surgery. Also, depending on the patient's other medical problems, severity of current illness, size, and body habitus, the operation may be performed in the "open" manner more safely.

The surgeon's experience and comfort level is also a critical factor in making the decision to perform the surgery laparoscopically or "open". Each surgeon's experience with different types of operations is variable. Specialists have had additional training to safely perform certain types of laparoscopic surgery.

At Denton Colon & Rectal Surgery, I am pleased to offer laparoscopic surgery as part of my practice. Again, each patient is different and the decision to perform your operation laparoscopically or "open" will be made after a counseling session with your surgeon.

I appreciate the opportunity to participate in your healthcare.

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