

MINIMALLY INVASIVE COLON CANCER SURGERY EXPLAINED



Program Resource Guide

Questions to Ask About Colon Cancer Surgery

- What type of surgery do you recommend, and why?
- What are the risks and potential complications?
- Will I need other treatments before or after surgery?
- What follow-up care and surveillance will I need after treatment?

Laparoscopic Colectomy

During a laparoscopic colectomy, the surgeon makes several small incisions in the abdomen. A tiny camera, called a **laparoscope**, is inserted through one of the incisions. The camera provides a magnified view of the surgical area on a monitor.

The surgeon uses long, specialized instruments inserted through the other small incisions to remove the cancer and the affected portion of the colon.

Robotic-Assisted Colectomy

Robotic-assisted surgery is a type of minimally invasive surgery that uses specialized instruments controlled by the surgeon.

During the procedure, the surgeon sits at a console near the operating table and uses hand controls to guide the instruments. A small camera provides a magnified, high-definition view of the area being treated, while the instruments allow the surgeon to make precise movements in a small space.

Factors Impacting Surgical Options

- The location and size of the tumor
- How deeply the cancer has grown into the colon wall
- Whether cancer has spread to nearby lymph nodes or elsewhere
- A patient's overall health
- Previous surgeries or other medical conditions
- The surgeon's experience and the surgical options available

Minimally Invasive Surgery Benefits

Compared with traditional open surgery, minimally invasive surgery may offer benefits for some patients, including:

- Smaller incisions.
- Less pain after surgery.
- Reduced blood loss.
- Shorter hospital stays.
- Faster recovery time.

Glossary

Lymph nodes: Small structures that are part of the body's immune system. Cancer cells can sometimes travel from the colon to nearby lymph nodes. During colon cancer surgery, nearby lymph nodes are often removed and examined for cancer cells.

Minimally invasive surgery: A surgical approach that uses several small incisions rather than one larger incision. Specialized instruments and a camera are inserted through the incisions to perform the operation.

Open surgery: A traditional surgical approach that generally uses one larger incision to access the colon and to remove the cancer.



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