

# Laparoscopic and Robotic Surgery

## Minimally invasive surgery

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Laparoscopic surgery uses a tiny camera and special surgical instruments. It can reduce healing time and pain because the surgical cuts (incisions) are smaller than in traditional surgery.

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### What is laparoscopy?

Laparoscopy uses a tiny camera in your child's stomach area.

During a laparoscopic surgery, we fill your child's belly (abdomen) with carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). This creates a space or a bubble in which to do surgery.

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### How is it done?

Our surgeons watch a TV monitor and then move surgical instruments from outside of your child's body.

We make 3 to 5 small "keyhole" incisions on your child's body. The surgeon inserts small, thin tubes through these incisions. These tubes hold a video camera and surgical instruments.

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### What are the benefits?

- Smaller incisions
  - Less pain after surgery
  - Shorter hospital stays and a quicker return to normal activities are possible
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### How is a robot used in surgery?

We use the da Vinci Robot system for more complex general surgery and urology surgeries. It is a type of laparoscopic surgery, but it's easier for the surgeon to see inside your child's body and control the instruments. The computer helps the surgeon see 3D (three-dimensional) views. The surgeon can only see 2D (two-dimensional) views with traditional laparoscopic surgery.

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### Will my child have pain?

We work with our Anesthesia team to give your child a pain prevention medicine called a regional block. This helps lessen pain after surgery, but your child is likely to have some pain and discomfort. We partner with you and your child to prevent and relieve pain as completely as possible. You know your child best. We encourage you to take an active part in your child's recovery by talking with your care team about options for your child. In addition to medicine prescribed for pain, we will work with you to create a plan that encourages coping activities to treat pain and provide support. No matter the level of your child's pain, we join you to assess and respond right away. Help your child get better, faster with good pain treatment.

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#### To Learn More

- Urology  
206-987-2509
- General Surgery  
206-987-2794
- Ask your child's healthcare provider
- [seattlechildrens.org](http://seattlechildrens.org)

#### Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line, 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.



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### How do I manage my child's pain?



- Effective pain control will help your child feel better and heal faster.
- Start by giving your child acetaminophen (Tylenol) alternating every 3 hours with ibuprofen (Advil or Motrin) for the first 2 days after surgery and then you will use it as needed. Use this medication only if recommended by your child's healthcare provider. Check with the healthcare provider first before giving any type of medicine to your child. If your child's healthcare provider prescribed opioid medicine for pain, use this if the acetaminophen or ibuprofen does not help relieve pain.
- Tylenol and opioid pain medicine may not be safe to use at the same time. For questions, check with your healthcare provider or pharmacy.
- In addition to medicine for pain, you can also help your child cope by distracting them with music, games, TV or videos.

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### When will my child be able to go home?

The average length of stay in the hospital after a laparoscopic or robotic surgery is 2 to 4 days.

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### How much activity can my child do?



We will tell you what activities your child should avoid and for how long.

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### When may my child eat and drink?



When home from the hospital, your child will need to drink plenty of fluids.

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### Can my child take a bath, shower, swim or get wet?



Your child may bathe or shower 24 hours after surgery.

### When to call?



Monday to Friday, call the Urology Clinic at **206-987-2509** or General Surgery at **206-987-0237** for questions or any of the concerns listed below. Send MyChart messages for non-urgent questions.

Nights, weekends and holidays, call **206-987-2000** and ask the hospital operator for the urology surgery resident on call for urgent concerns from the following list:

- Fever over 101.5°F (38.6° C) for more than 24 hours
- Redness and swelling that spreads from the incisions
- Severe, constant pain
- Vomiting
- Cannot pee for a span of 8 hours
- Bleeding or drainage from the incision