

How can you prepare for surgery?



One way to learn more about your surgery is to ask your doctor and care team questions.

Here are some questions you may want to ask your doctor or care team:

- What medical and surgical options are available for me?
- Which is best for my situation?
- What are the differences between open, laparoscopic, and robotic-assisted surgery?
- Should I get a second opinion?
- What am I likely to experience after surgery?
- If I decide to have surgery, how can I prepare for it?
- How long before I can return to my normal routine after surgery?
- What is your surgical training and experience? What is your experience with robotic-assisted surgery?
- What are your patient outcomes?

What is gallbladder surgery?

Gallbladder surgery is called a cholecystectomy. It is a procedure to remove your gallbladder.

If you have symptoms related to gallstones, your doctor may suggest surgical removal of the gallbladder.¹

If you have been diagnosed with gallbladder disease, you should discuss all options with your doctor, including surgery.

If you are a candidate for surgery, your surgeon may recommend:



Open surgery

Surgeon makes an incision in your abdomen large enough to see the gallbladder and performs the procedure using hand-held tools



Laparoscopic surgery

Surgeon makes a few small incisions in the abdomen and operates using special long-handled tools while viewing magnified images from the laparoscope (camera) on a video screen



Robotic-assisted surgery

Surgeon controls the da Vinci system to perform the procedure

References

1. Gallbladder Removal Surgery (Cholecystectomy) Patient Information from SAGES. Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES). Web. 21 May 2020 <https://www.sages.org/publications/patient-information/patient-information-for-laparoscopic-gallbladder-removal-cholecystectomy-from-sages/>
2. Definition & Facts for Gallstones. National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK). Web. 21 May 2020 <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/digestive-diseases/gallstones/definition-facts>
3. Cholecystectomy. American College of Surgeons (ACS). Web. 19 May 2020 <https://www.facs.org/-/media/files/education/patient%20ed/cholesys.ashx>

Surgical Risks

Risks associated with cholecystectomy (gallbladder removal) include injury to the common bile duct (tube that carries bile from the gallbladder to the small intestine), leaking bile, inflamed pancreas (pancreatitis), retained stones in the common bile duct.

Important Safety Information

Patients should talk to their doctors to decide if da Vinci Surgery is right for them. Patients and doctors should review all available information on nonsurgical and surgical options and associated risks in order to make an informed decision.

Serious complications may occur in any surgery, including da Vinci® Surgery, up to and including death. Serious risks include, but are not limited to, injury to tissues and organs

and conversion to other surgical techniques, which could result in a longer operative time and/or increased complications. For important safety information, including surgical risks, indications, and considerations and contraindications for use, please also refer to www.intuitive.com/safety.

Individuals' outcomes may depend on a number of factors, including but not limited to patient characteristics, disease characteristics and/or surgeon experience.

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Get back to what you love

Learn about your surgical options for gallbladder disease.

Is it time for surgery?

If you've been diagnosed with gallbladder disease, you may be dealing with symptoms such as nausea, indigestion, or sharp pain in your abdomen. Gallbladder disease, a common condition that affects millions of American adults, is generally caused by hard deposits called gallstones that develop in the gallbladder.^{1,2}

If your gallstones cause pain or infection, your doctor may recommend surgery to remove your gallbladder.³

If your doctor is recommending gallbladder surgery, robotic-assisted surgery with da Vinci technology is one option you may discuss. This brochure can help you understand what that means.



What will my surgeon do?



If you and your doctor decide that robotic-assisted surgery is right for you, here is what may happen.

Actual incision size



During robotic-assisted surgery with the da Vinci system, your surgeon makes a few small incisions, and uses a 3DHD camera for a crystal-clear, magnified view of your gallbladder and surrounding tissue.



Your surgeon sits at a console next to you and operates through the incisions using tiny instruments and the camera.



The da Vinci system translates every hand movement your surgeon makes in real time, bending and rotating the instruments so he or she can remove your gallbladder.

What is the da Vinci system?

It is a surgical system with three parts:

Surgeon console

Is the control center where your surgeon sits to perform the operation.

Patient cart

Holds the camera and surgical instruments your surgeon controls from the console.

Vision cart

Manages the communication between all the system components and provides a screen for the care team to view the operation.



Get back to what matters most.



What are the outcomes?

Be sure to talk with your surgeon about the surgical outcomes he or she delivers by using the da Vinci system, as every surgeon's experience is different. For example, ask about:

- Length of hospital stay
- Complication rate
- Chance of switching to an open procedure
- Length of surgery

There are additional outcomes of surgery that you may want to talk with your doctor about. Please ask him or her about all important outcomes of surgery.

To find out more about surgery with the da Vinci system, visit the Gallbladder Surgery page on www.davincisurgery.com