

What is Laparoscopy?

Serious complications after laparoscopy are estimated to occur in 1 out of every 1,000 cases.

1 Introduction

Laparoscopy, otherwise known as keyhole surgery, is a type of outpatient surgical procedure that allows surgeons to access organs inside of the abdomen and pelvis without making large incisions in the skin. In this procedure, a laparoscope — a thin tube with a high-resolution camera attached — is passed through a small incision in the abdomen allowing doctors to see inside the body in real time, without open surgery.

2 Using Laparoscopy

Laparoscopy is typically used to identify and diagnose the source of pelvic or abdominal pain when noninvasive methods are unable to help with diagnosis. This surgery can also be used to carry out a variety of surgical procedures such as:

- Hysterectomy
- Tubal sterilization
- Full/partial organ removal
- Weight loss surgery

3 Risks

Laparoscopy is a commonly performed procedure with low risk of serious complications. Minor complications can involve:

- Minor bleeding and bruising
- Infection
- Feeling sick
- Vomiting

Serious complications often require further surgery. These include:

- Damage to an organ
- Damage to a major artery
- Problems related to anesthesia
- Blood clots which could travel to the pelvis, legs or lungs
- Complications from the use of carbon dioxide

4 Recovery

After the surgery, the patient will be monitored for several hours before being released from the hospital. Shoulder and neck pain are common symptoms following a laparoscopy procedure. This pain is a result of the carbon dioxide gas used to inflate the abdomen to create a working space for the surgical instruments. Some other discomforts are:

- Swollen abdomen
- Sore throat
- Mild nausea

Did you know?

Almost 75% of all surgery today is performed on an outpatient basis.

For more information on laparoscopy and supportive resources, please visit <https://www.acog.org>

References:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/laparoscopy/>

<https://www.healthline.com/health/laparoscopy#procedure>

<https://www.acog.org/womens-health/faqs/laparoscopy>

<https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/treatments/4819-laparoscopy>