

There may be a second small incision made lower in your abdomen, if necessary for better visualization and for use of other laparoscopic instruments.

The surgeon then performs your procedure while your condition is closely monitored. Rarely, the surgeon may have to perform open surgery (make an incision in your abdomen).

At the end of the procedure, the laparoscope and other instruments are then removed. The gas is allowed to escape. Many times, just a small bandage is needed after the procedure.

You may experience some shoulder pain after the procedure due to a small amount of retained carbon dioxide in your abdomen. Walking and applying heat to your shoulder may help this.

## Benefits of a Laparoscopic Surgery

- less pain and faster recovery
- a shorter hospital stay
- allows you to resume normal activities quicker and with less pain
- direct visualization without a large incision

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# Diagnostic Laparoscopy

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## **Why Laparoscopy?**

Pain in the lower abdomen can have many causes:

- adhesions
- cysts
- tumors
- endometriosis
- gall bladder disease

Physical exams, x-rays and ultrasound procedures cannot always confirm the problem. At times, a special surgery called laparoscopy may be necessary to make a diagnosis.

Laparoscopy is used to diagnose and possibly to treat gallbladder disease, gynecological conditions and other abdominal problems. Laparoscopy is also used to perform a tubal ligation for sterilization.

Laparoscopy is done with a slender scope called a laparoscope inserted just below the naval. It has its own light source and video camera. This allows the surgical team to see inside the body using a television monitor.

## **The Laparoscopic Procedure**

General anesthesia is usually given. You lose consciousness quickly and are pain free during your surgery. Your abdomen is then gently inflated using a small needle inserted at the naval. Carbon dioxide, a gas, enters your abdomen via the needle and expands your abdomen so the surgeon can better visualize your organs.

The laparoscope is then inserted through a small incision at the same site as the inflation needle. This allows images to be viewed on the television monitor.