

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 robotic surgical 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 <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>

Medical Advice

Patients should talk to their doctor to decide if robotic-assisted surgery is right for them. Other options may be available and appropriate. Only a doctor can determine whether robotic-assisted surgery is appropriate for a patient's situation. Patients and doctors should review all available information on both non-surgical and surgical options in order to make an informed decision.

Important safety information

Serious complications may occur in any surgery, including robotic-assisted surgery up to and including death. Examples of serious and life-threatening complications, which may require prolonged and/or unexpected hospitalization and/or reoperation, include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following: Injury to tissues and/or organs, Bleeding, Infection, Internal scarring that can cause long-lasting dysfunction or pain.

Patients should consider that risks of any surgery also include, but are not limited to, the following: Potential for human error, Potential for equipment failure, Potential for anesthesia complications. Risks specific to minimally invasive surgery, include, but are not limited to, the following: Temporary pain and/or nerve injury associated with positioning, Temporary pain and/or discomfort from the use of air or gas in the procedure, a longer operative time and time under anesthesia, the need to convert the procedure to an open surgery, converting the procedure could result in a longer operative time, a longer time under anesthesia, and/or the need for additional or larger incisions and/or increased complications. 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.

INTUITIVE

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 Indian 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, 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, 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 robotic surgical 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 robotic surgical 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.

What are the outcomes?

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

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



Get back to what matters most.

