

there are colon surgery options



Colon cancer is the #2 cancer killer in the U.S.¹



A minimally invasive colon surgery means:*

- *less time in the hospital*
- *less recovery time*
- *less scarring*
- *less pain*
- *fewer complications*

**when compared to open surgery.^{2,3}*



Know your surgical options for colon disease.

Colon cancer is one of the most curable cancers — if it is caught early¹. Screening for colorectal cancer, with a colonoscopy, is the best way to look for this kind of cancer and find it in the early stages, when it is most treatable. Colonoscopy can also reveal other colon diseases.

Have confidence that if the screening reveals a problem, there are treatment options available. If surgery is a part of the treatment plan, know that a minimally invasive colon surgery may be available.

ask about minimally invasive surgery

For patients who have been diagnosed with colon cancer, treatment options vary by the stage of colon cancer. In nearly all stages, surgery is the first treatment. A surgeon will remove the cancer, along with a small length of normal colon on either side of it. The two ends are then sewn back together.

Sometimes, nearby lymph nodes are removed, and the surgeon will check other organs for disease. If the cancer has spread, radiation and chemotherapy may also be used.

Colon surgery is also an option for the 60 to 70 million Americans who have digestive diseases⁴. Minimally invasive colon surgery may be an option for treating:

- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Diverticular disease
- Crohn's disease
- Ulcerative colitis
- Colon polyps

Advancing technology has made minimally invasive surgery a valuable option for colon treatment.

Surgery Options Comparison³

Minimally Invasive Colon Surgery

- Surgery performed through two dime-sized incisions and one 3 to 4-inch incision in the abdomen
- Hospital stay is 4 to 5 days
- Recovery is about 4 weeks
- Minimal scarring

Open Colon Surgery

- Surgery performed through a 6 to 12-inch incision in the abdomen
- Hospital stay is 5 to 8 days
- Recovery is about 6 to 8 weeks
- Scar 6-12 inches long

Patients can take an active role in making decisions about treatment for colon cancer. Encourage the ones you love to talk to their physician about their options.

Studies have also shown that minimally invasive colon surgery can result in fewer complications, including:^{*}

- fewer wound infections
- fewer respiratory complications
- fewer cardiac problems
- less blood loss

^{*} than patients who undergo open surgery.³

As with any surgical procedure, a colectomy, whether performed as an open procedure or as a minimally invasive procedure, may present risks. You should consult your physician to see if minimally invasive colon surgery is right for you.

■ **Learn more about screening and treatment options for colon cancer and find a surgeon for minimally invasive colon surgery at www.colonsurgeryinfo.com.**

¹ Ries LAG, et al (eds.) Seer Cancer Statistics Review, 1975-2003. National Cancer Institute, 2006.

² Roumm, A R, Pizzi, L, Goldfarb, NI, Cohn, H. Minimally Invasive, Minimally Reimbursed? An Examination of Six Laparoscopic Surgical Procedures. Surg Innov. 2005; 12; 261.

³ Noel J, Fahrbach K, Estok R. Minimally invasive colorectal resection outcomes: short-term comparison with open procedure. J Am Coll Surg. 2007; 204:291-307.

⁴ Digestive diseases in the United States: Epidemiology and Impact – N H Publication No. 94-1447.