

Gallbladder Surgery

If you have been told that you should have a surgery to remove your gallbladder, most commonly this is done with a procedure known as a laparoscopic cholecystectomy. A laparoscopic surgery uses a camera and small keyholes to work inside your abdomen, rather than making a large incision. Once the gallbladder is removed from its attachments to your liver, it is put in a sterile bag and removed through your belly button incision.

Occasionally we leave a small plastic drain in the abdomen after a gallbladder surgery for a short time, but not for every patient.

You do not need your gallbladder and can live very well after it is removed. The gallbladder stores a substance called bile that is made by the liver. Bile helps us absorb our fats. Therefore, some patients find that they are more likely to have loose bowel movements after a gallbladder surgery if they eat fatty foods. This only happens to a small portion of patients however.

Gallbladder surgeries are usually performed on an outpatient basis, meaning that you go home the same day. However, do not be concerned if we ask you to stay in hospital after for a short time, especially if you came to the emergency department initially.