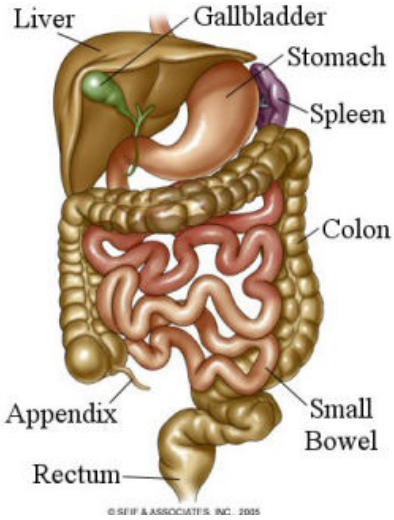
Laparoscopic Colon Resection
(Removal of A Portion of the Large Intestine by Laparoscopy)
Care After Surgery

Please read the instructions outlined below. Refer to these instructions for the next few weeks. These discharge instructions provide you with general information on caring for yourself after surgery. Your caregiver may also give you specific instructions. While your treatment has been planned according to the most current medical practices available, unavoidable complications occasionally occur. If you have any problems or questions after discharge, please call your caregiver.



HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- It will be normal to be sore for a couple weeks following surgery. See your caregiver if this seems to be getting worse rather than better.
- Only take over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort, or fever as directed by your caregiver.
- Use showers for bathing, until seen or as instructed.
- Change dressings if necessary or as directed.
- You may resume normal diet and activities as directed or allowed.
- Avoid lifting or driving until you are instructed otherwise.
- Make an appointment to see your surgeon for *suture* (stitches) or staple removal when instructed.
- You may use ice on your incision for twenty minutes four times per day for the first two days.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You have increased bleeding from wounds.
- You see redness, swelling, or have increasing pain in wounds.
- You have pus coming from a wound.
- You develop an unexplained temperature over 101° F (38.3° C).
- You have a foul smell coming from the wound or dressing.
- There is a breaking open of a *wound* (edges not staying together) after sutures or staples have been removed.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION IF:

- You develop a rash.
- You have difficulty breathing
- You develop any reaction or side effects to medications given.
- You develop lightheadedness or feel faint.
- Your abdomen becomes *distended* (gets larger).
- You develop nausea or vomiting or pass blood from the bowels.

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