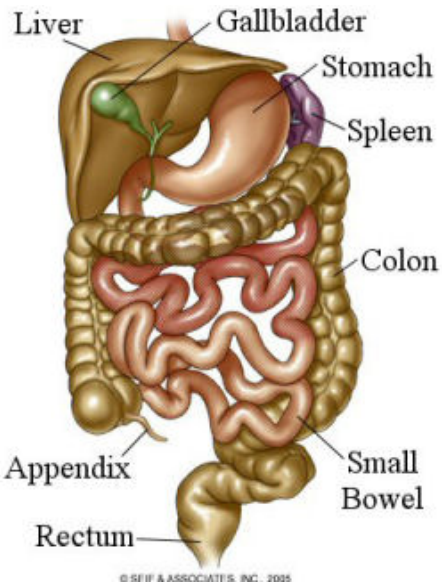
Laparoscopic Bowel Resection
(Removal of a Portion of Intestines)
Care After Surgery

Please read the instructions outlined below and refer to this sheet in the next few weeks. These discharge instructions provide you with general information on caring for yourself after you leave the hospital. 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 a normal diet and activities as directed or allowed.
- Avoid lifting or driving until you are instructed otherwise.
- Make an appointment to see your caregiver for stitch or staple removal when instructed.
- You may use ice on your incision for 20 minutes 4 times per day for the first two days.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF THERE IS:

- Redness, swelling, or increasing pain in areas of the wounds.
- Pus coming from a wound.
- Chills or fever or an unexplained oral temperature above 100º F (37.8º C) develops.
- A foul smell coming from a wound or dressing.
- A breaking open of a wound (edges not staying together) after sutures or staples have been removed.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You develop a rash.
- You develop any reaction or side effects to the medications given.
- You develop pain in your shoulders in a shoulder strap area which gets progressively more severe. Some pain is common and expected because of the gas inserted into your abdomen during the procedure.
- You develop bleeding or drainage from the suture sites following surgery.
- You develop dizziness or fainting while standing, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing.
- You develop persistent nausea or vomiting or increased abdominal pain.
- You cannot have a bowel movement or pass gas.

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