



York and Scarborough  
Teaching Hospitals  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Diagnostic Laparoscopy

Information for patients, relatives and carers

## Obstetrics and Gynaecology

The York Hospital  
Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE

Tel: 01904 631313

Scarborough Hospital  
Woodlands Drive, Scarborough, YO12 6QL

Tel: 01723 368111

① For more information, please speak to your  
consultant's secretary

There is a list of contact numbers on page 9



<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
What happens before surgery? .....	4
What are the benefits? .....	5
What happens during surgery?.....	5
Are there any risks? .....	6
What are the alternatives?.....	7
What happens after surgery? .....	7
When can I go home? .....	7
What else do I need to know? .....	8
Useful Contact details.....	9
Space for your questions and notes .....	10
Tell us what you think of this leaflet .....	11
Teaching, training and research.....	11
Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS).....	11

In this leaflet we try to answer some common questions about having a diagnostic laparoscopy but remember everyone is different and you are encouraged to ask your own questions of the doctors and nurses.

## **What happens before surgery?**

On your arrival the nurses will introduce themselves to you and explain what will happen during your stay. You will be asked about your present medicines, any allergies you may have, your arrangements for going home and who is to look after you. Please bring your completed admission form with you. Do not hesitate to ask if there is anything about which you are uncertain. You will be asked to sign a consent form (reference FYCON13-1 Diagnostic Laparoscopy). You sign to confirm that you agree to the procedure and understand the information given to you. The form will be kept in your patient notes and you will also be given a copy for your own records.

You will need to change into a theatre gown and then be escorted to the theatre where your identity will be checked as part of safety procedures.

If you are having a general anaesthetic, your anaesthetist will speak to you before your operation, discuss any problems with you and check when you last had anything to eat or drink.

If you have a pre-assessment appointment, you will be given a leaflet that describes what you should expect when you come into hospital for surgery.

## **What are the benefits?**

This procedure has been recommended by your doctor. It involves inspecting the organs in your abdomen and pelvis (uterus, tubes and ovaries) we also look at the bowel and for any scarring and we may see the edge of the liver. This will help diagnose your problem and so we can suggest management and treatments specific to you.

## **What happens during surgery?**

A small telescope will be inserted through a cut in your belly button to have a careful look inside at your womb, tubes and ovaries. The bladder is emptied first with a catheter (a thin tube) which is taken out again. An internal vaginal examination is performed and an instrument is introduced through the cervix into the womb to help move the womb, so all of the pelvis can be seen adequately. Sometimes a second cut (less than one centimetre) is needed just above your pubic hair. This second cut helps the surgeon gain a better look at your pelvis.

## Are there any risks?

The most common risks following the operation are of a little vaginal bleeding and shoulder, chest or abdominal pain. These occur in nearly all patients. You will be given painkillers to help with the discomfort.

There is a small risk of serious complication associated with this procedure (about two in 1000 cases). This can be:

- Damage to organs such as cervix, uterus, bladder, bowel and blood vessels; if this occurs you may require a laparotomy, which is a large cut down your tummy to repair anything that has been damaged. The risk of needing a laparotomy is increased with obesity and/or previous abdominal surgery.
- There is a risk of having a subsequent hernia.
- A very small risk arising from the use of carbon dioxide during the procedure, such as the gas bubbles entering your bloodstream.
- Other complications due to the anaesthetic or very rarely, death (three to eight in 100,000 cases).
- In a small number of women, probably less than one in 100, it may not be possible to complete the procedure safely and you will be woken up and the next step discussed with you.

## **What are the alternatives?**

The alternative is not to have the procedure but this may mean we don't have sufficient information to make an accurate diagnosis.

## **What happens after surgery?**

After surgery, you will be taken to the recovery area where a nurse will monitor your progress. Then you will be taken back to your bed in the ward area. When you are able to sit up you will be offered a drink.

Your consultant will discuss the results and treatment with you before you go home.

## **When can I go home?**

You will be able to go home, accompanied by a responsible adult, when it is felt you are ready. This is usually after you have had something to eat and drink and been able to get to the toilet. Remember you must not drive yourself home or use public transport.

A nurse will go through all the discharge instructions with you and give you all the necessary papers. Please do ask if you are unsure of any of the instructions.

## What else do I need to know?

You may experience period like discomfort and some pain in your shoulders. This should respond to simple painkillers, which will be given to you before you leave the unit.

You may have a stitch in the wound that needs to be removed, but you will be told about this before you go home. Most stitches used dissolve and do not need to be removed.

You will need help at home if you have small children. Do not have sexual intercourse until any bleeding or discharge has settled.

Most people take a few days off work to help them recover.

If you have any problems in the first 24 hours after your discharge from hospital please telephone:

Day Unit (York): Tel: 01904 726010  
Between 8am and 6pm or

Ward G1 (York) Tel: 01904 726001  
Anytime within the first 24 hours.

Lilac Ward (Scarborough): Tel: 01723 344805

Lloyd Ward (Bridlington): Tel: 01262 423134



# Useful Contact details

## Gynaecology secretary telephone numbers – York

Mr Adekanmi , Miss Oxby,  
Miss Natarajan and 01904 725582  
Miss Radhakrishnan:

Miss S Ghosh, Miss Yasin and  
Dr Falconer: 01904 725549

Mr Evans, Miss Dean and  
Miss Edwards: 01904 726553

Miss Sanaullah, Miss Fahel, Mr  
Brewer, Mr Broadhead and 01904 721682  
Mrs Hayden

Mr Dwyer, Miss Tang and Miss Merrick: 01904 725111

Waiting List Office 01904 725132

Family Planning Clinic Monkgate 01904 725432

## Gynaecology secretary telephone numbers - Scarborough

Mrs Ramaswamy, Miss Abdu: 01723 342083

Mr Ajayi, Mr Freitas and Mr Patel: 01723 385248

Miss Hayes: 01723 385047

Miss Verma and Miss Jordan: 01723 342515

SR Sue Thompson 01723 342083

Waiting List Clerk 01723 342249



## **Tell us what you think of this leaflet**

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact:

Miss Dean, Consultant Gynaecologist and Obstetrician,  
The York Hospital, Wigginton Road, York, YO31 8HE or  
telephone 01904 721682.

## **Teaching, training and research**

Our Trust is committed to teaching, training and research to support the development of health and healthcare in our community. Healthcare students may observe consultations for this purpose. You can opt out if you do not want students to observe. We may also ask you if you would like to be involved in our research.

## **Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)**

PALS offers impartial advice and assistance to patients, their relatives, friends and carers. We can listen to feedback (positive or negative), answer questions and help resolve any concerns about Trust services.

PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or email [pals@york.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@york.nhs.uk).

An answer phone is available out of hours.

# Leaflets in alternative languages or formats

Please telephone or email if you require this information in a different language or format, for example Braille, large print or audio.

如果你要求本資 不同的 或 式提供 , 電  
或發電

Jeżeli niniejsze informacje potrzebne są w innym języku lub formacie, należy zadzwonić lub wysłać wiadomość e-mail

Bu bilgileri değişik bir lisanda ya da formatta istiyorsanız lütfen telefon ediniz ya da e-posta gönderiniz

Telephone: 01904 725566

Email: [access@york.nhs.uk](mailto:access@york.nhs.uk)

Owner	Miss N Dean, Consultant Gynaecologist & Obstetrician
Date first issued	November 2002
Review Date	May 2025
Version	6 (issued June 2022)
Approved by	Obstetrics and Gynaecology Clinical Governance Group
Linked to consent form	FYCON13-1 Diagnostic Laparoscopy v5
Document Reference	PIL 113 v6
© 2022 York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. All Rights reserved.	