

Laparoscopy Information Sheet

General indications for the proposed procedure/treatment:

This procedure is most often done to:

- Diagnose the cause of acute or chronic abdominal or pelvic pain
- Visualize and get a tissue sample from a mass in the abdomen or pelvis
- Evaluate the cause of infertility
- Evaluate the source of fluid accumulating in the abdomen or pelvis
- Monitor the status of previously treated cancers

Description of Procedure:

This surgery is done through several small incisions. A laparoscope, a slender, tube-like instrument with a camera at one end is inserted through one of the incisions to view the inside of the abdomen and female reproductive organs. Surgical tools are inserted through other incisions. It is typically performed under general anesthesia.

Risk of the Procedure:

The rare complications of this procedure include, infection, gas embolism, excessive bleeding, damage to blood vessels or organs (sometimes requires immediate open surgery for repair), problems related to anesthesia, the need for open surgery rather than laparoscopic surgery, and death.

Procedure Alternatives, if any:

A laparotomy, a larger abdominal or pelvic incision, can be done instead of a laparoscopy.

Probable consequences of Refusing Procedure:

The probable consequence of refusing this procedure is the inability to accurately diagnose acute or chronic abdominal or pelvic problems.

Person(s) Performing the Procedure:

The key portions of the procedure will be performed by a physician who is a member of the medical staff of Rush University Medical Center and/or a resident/fellow who is observed by a physician who is a member of the medical staff. Residents/Fellows are licensed physicians in approved residency or post residency training programs. Parts of the procedure which they perform will be based on their level of competency.