

Colectomy (Colon Surgery)

For an appointment call
1-888-UCH-0200

Surgery of the colon is often performed as a treatment for colon cancer, diverticular disease, and inflammatory bowel disease. In most cases, traditional open surgery is the most common approach. Traditional surgery results in significant post-surgical pain, and longer hospital stays and recovery periods. Many of these surgeries can now be performed laparoscopically, which enhances patient care.

Minimally Invasive Surgery Used to Treat Colon Disorders

Surgeons usually perform minimally invasive colon surgery through four tiny incisions, each about a quarter-inch long. A surgical instrument called a laparoscope is inserted through the incisions. A video camera at the end of the laparoscope allows the surgeon to see a magnified view of the operative site on a video monitor. The surgeon then manipulates surgical instruments, brought to the operative site through small, hollow tubes, to remove cancerous lesions, excise inflammatory lesions, or perform other surgical procedures. Unlike traditional surgery, blood transfusions are not usually required during routine laparoscopic colon surgery.

In most cases, patients have shorter hospital stays, can return to normal activity within two to three weeks, and have better cosmetic results than with traditional surgery.

The Minimally Invasive Surgery Center

The University of Chicago Hospitals Minimally Invasive Surgery Center at Louis A. Weiss Memorial Hospital is at the forefront of laparoscopic surgery. Surgeons here are pioneers in advancing minimally invasive diagnostic and therapeutic surgical procedures, many of which are now performed all over the world. For example, Constantine Frantzides, MD, Director of the Minimally Invasive Surgery Center, was the first in the world to pioneer eight different new laparoscopic procedures.

Specialists from general surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, urology, ophthalmology, orthopaedics, plastics, thoracic, and vascular surgery all work together to offer a full spectrum of minimally invasive surgeries from gallbladder and hernia procedures to surgery of the spine, spleen, stomach, colon, and other organs. These specialists also collaborate to apply laparoscopic technology to other procedures that currently require traditional open surgery.

For a consultation or second opinion with one of our minimally invasive surgical specialists, contact your primary care physician or call toll-free 1-888-UCH-0200.

O V E R V I E W

Minimally invasive, or laparoscopic colorectal surgery offers many benefits over traditional open surgery, such as:

- **Reduced hospital stay.**
- **A quicker return to work and other activities.**
- **Only four tiny marks as opposed to a nine-inch scar.**
- **Minimal postoperative pain.**

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