

Well Informed

Health care information for our neighbors

Winter 1995

Minimally invasive surgery expands

I *Imagine recovering from ulcer surgery with significantly less pain, fewer days in the hospital, a faster home recovery and — paying less.*

Using tiny punctures, long instruments and video cameras, Medical College surgeons have expanded use of minimally invasive surgery to the stomach, gall bladder, colon and other organs.

Minimally Invasive Surgical Center

The Medical College has opened the Minimally Invasive Surgical Center at Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital in Wauwatosa to make these procedures available to more patients, whether they have a bad knee, herniated disk, gynecological disorder or cardiothoracic condition.

“Minimally invasive surgery is truly the phenomenon of the century in general

surgery,” said Constantine Frantzides, MD, PhD, Director of the Minimally Invasive Surgery Center.

“Five years ago no one could have imagined we would be at this point.”

Minimally invasive gall bladder surgery, for example, needs only four, one-quarter inch incisions. Compare that to the conventional surgery which requires an incision large enough for the physicians’ hands.

Easier recovery

Dr. Frantzides found in one recent study of patients with severe heartburn, indigestion and other symptoms of gastroesophageal reflux disease that minimally invasive surgery patients:

- ◆ Were hospitalized for an average of two days, compared to nine for conventional surgery patients.
- ◆ Required minimal post-surgery pain killers — evidence of less pain.

- ◆ Had complication rates of 2.7 percent compared to 17.2 percent for conventional surgery patients.

Cost Savings

Another Medical College analysis found that patients who had the minimally invasive surgery saved \$4,000 per surgery.

For more information about minimally invasive surgery, call 454-5757.

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