

I am about to have my Gallbladder removed?

Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy (with on table cholangiogram)

BUPA code J1880

What to expect from your Gallbladder Surgery –

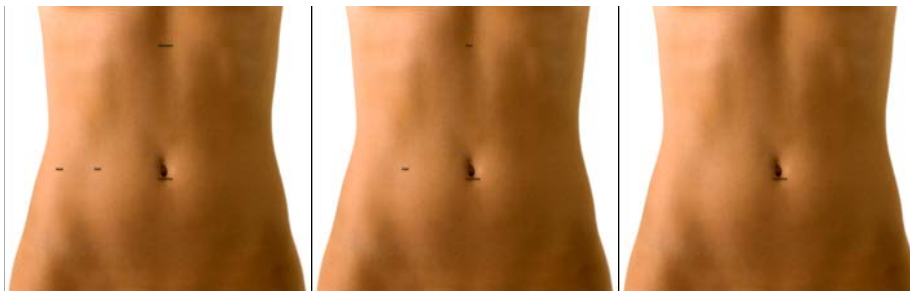
Your operation will be carried out under a General Anaesthetic and is performed as a day case (same day discharge) procedure in 50% of patients. The large majority of patients are discharged in the following day with a few patients 5-10% required prolonged stay especially if they had an acutely inflamed gallbladder (acute cholecystitis).

Incisions used:

A small 1.5 cm incision is used at the umbilicus 'belly button' shown below to allow insertion of a laparoscope – optical camera. The traditional approach uses four small incisions (highlighted in red) as in diagram A below. The entire operation can also be performed using a single incision in selected cases (diagram C). Your surgeon will discuss with you the appropriate incisions that will be used for your operation.

Incisions used for laparoscopic cholecystectomy

Diagram of abdomen shown below



A

B

C

A: Traditionally four incisions are used for this procedure

B: In some patients only three small 5mm incisions can be used

C: In selective cases the procedure can be performed through a single incision ([SILS – single incision laparoscopic surgery](#))

What are the main risks of surgery?

Your surgeon will advise on any specific complications and risks. For all types of surgery there is always a risk of wound infection, bleeding, deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary embolism (PE). Specifically for laparoscopic cholecystectomy there is always a small risk of undergoing an open operation instead of keyhole in 2% of patients and a risk of bile duct injury of <0.3% (National quoted figure). Your surgeon will discuss this with you prior to surgery.

What happens after surgery?

You will be able to eat and drink after your operation. The operation is usually straightforward and most people are usually well enough to go home within twenty-four hours. Some patients describe shoulder tip pain for the first 1-2 days, this usually settles with time and is common in some patients after 'keyhole' surgery. Painkillers prescribed should be taken regularly for the first three to four days then as required. Most people should be well enough to engage in gentle sporting activities in 7 to 10 days.

There is no special dietary restriction following gallbladder removal and you can live without your gallbladder. In a small minority of individuals (1%), there may be increased bowel frequency following gallbladder removal because bile flows directly into the intestine from the liver but this usually settles down most of the time.

Driving can be resumed after 7 days but do check with your insurance company first for appropriate cover.

Most patients fully recover from surgery within two to three weeks.

The surgeon will discuss with you prior to surgery all the risks as outlined below, expected length of stay in hospital and the incisions to be used.