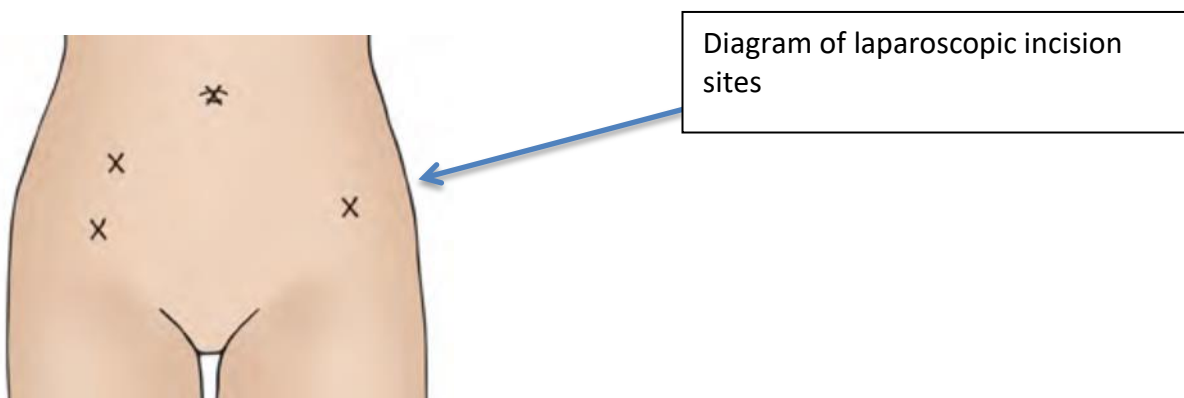


Laparoscopic pelvic lymph node dissection

This information leaflet provides information about your surgery. The information in this leaflet should already have been explained to you by a doctor. We hope that this helps you to remember what you discussed with your doctor, and also to answer any questions that you may have. If you still have questions after reading this leaflet, then please contact a member of your clinical team on one of the telephone numbers at the end of this leaflet.

What is a laparoscopic pelvic lymph node dissection?

This is a surgery that would involve a laparoscope (keyhole camera) inserted through a small cut under the umbilicus (tummy button). Then the surgeon makes several other small cuts in the tummy through which the surgical instruments are inserted. The surgeon would then remove the lymph nodes to see if the cancer has spread.



Can there be any complications or risks associated with this surgery?

Before you have your surgery you will be told about the risks of the surgery and you will be asked to sign a consent form which will list the potential risks. Please ask questions at any time.

More 'serious' complications can include:

- General anaesthetic carries a small chance of complication. This will be discussed with your anaesthetic doctor before your surgery. It is important to realise that these risks and complications are rare and every care is taken to keep the risks as low as possible.
- Infection- The risk of post-operative infections is reduced by giving antibiotics around the time of surgery but infection can still sometimes occur in the chest, wound, pelvis or urine. Infections are usually easily treated with antibiotics.
- Bleeding (haemorrhage) - This may occur during the surgery or rarely afterwards. Blood transfusion is required in around one in five surgeries. You may need to return to theatre in the rare case of internal bleeding after the surgery.

How can I prepare for my surgery?

You should have been given the 'Enhanced recovery' booklet at the same time as this information leaflet. This will describe in more depth the ways in which you can help yourself to be as well as you can be for your surgery. It also considers exercises that you can perform to reduce your risks of complications and advice for what to expect when you leave the hospital and are recovering at home. The following issues are important:

- Stopping or cutting down on smoking
- Eating a healthy diet. If your diet is restricted in any way please ask your team about a dietician referral.
- Where possible take some gentle exercise.
- Try to prepare for your discharge home, for example by stocking your freezer with easy to prepare food, arranging with relatives and friends to help with housework or childcare.

What are the alternatives to not having surgery?

Your decision to not have surgery for your cancer will be respected at all times by your doctor. A meeting to discuss any other options can be arranged.

How will I get the results of my surgery?

After your surgery your doctor will see you in the evening or the following morning. They will discuss the findings of the surgery with you as well as finding out how you are. The results of any tissues removed should be available seven to ten days after your surgery and we will discuss with you how you wish to receive the results.

Prescription exemption

If you are diagnosed with cancer you are exempt from prescription charges. Contact your GP and they will issue a certificate for this.

What support is available for me?

Clinical Nurse Specialist:

You should have contact details of a clinical nurse specialist (key worker) from your local hospital. Even though you are having treatment at Queen Elizabeth Hospital your local nurse remains an important point of contact for you. Contact details will be provided to you for the clinical nurse specialists from Queen Elizabeth hospital also. You are entitled to attend an appointment with a nurse specialist for a holistic needs assessment (HNA). This assessment can take place at your local hospital or Queen Elizabeth Hospital at diagnosis, during any treatment you receive or once treatment has been completed. It gives you the opportunity to discuss concerns and fears they could be:

- Emotional
- Physical

- Spiritual
- Financial
- Practical

It allows both yourself and your clinical nurse specialist to put a plan in place. If you would like to arrange this please do not hesitate to contact your nurse specialist.

How can I comment on the treatment that I have received?

Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust cares about the quality of care that you receive and strives to maintain high standards of health care. If you would like to talk to someone about any concerns, comments, compliments or complaints that you may have about your care we would encourage you to do so. You can do this by speaking to one of the healthcare professionals caring for you or by contacting the PALS (Patient Advice and Liaison Service) via the contact details at the end of this leaflet. When you are ready to be discharged from the ward, you will be provided a friends and family card. This can be filled in whilst on the ward or when you get home.

Research Projects

The NGOC department is actively involved in several research projects with the aim of increasing understanding of cancer and improving care of all patients. You may be approached by a member of the research team during your investigation, treatment or during follow-up to be part of a research project that you may be eligible to participate in. Whilst we encourage all patients to consider getting involved, this is not essential and your care will not be affected if you choose not to participate.

Who can I contact for further information?

For queries about issues such as appointments, parking and transport please contact your consultant's secretary. Contact details can be found on the "Information for patients" leaflet that you were given at your initial appointment or by contacting the hospital switchboard on 0191 4820000 and asking for the gynaecological oncology secretaries.

Clinical Nurse Specialists:

(Monday –Friday) - 8.30am -4.30pm (not including bank holidays)

Tel 0191 4453404 or 0191 482000 and ask for bleep 2361

Tel 0191 4452123 or 0191 482000 and ask for bleep 2344

Tel 0191 4456707 or 0191 4820000 and ask for bleep 2341

Ward 21

24hrs Tel 0191 4452021

Patient advice and liaison service (PALS)

Tel 0800 953 0667

Email: ghnt.pals.service@nhs.net

NHS 111

If you're worried about an urgent medical concern, you can call 111 to speak to a fully trained adviser.

Your GP telephone number:

Useful reading

A practical guide to understanding cancer: Understanding cervical cancer.

This booklet is produced by Macmillan Cancer Support and is useful to read alongside this information leaflet. This can be accessed online or copy can be provided by your local support nurse.

Other useful contact

Macmillan Cancer Information & Support – Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead. Open Cancer information and support centre. Open Monday-Friday 10.00-16.00 Telephone answering service. Telephone on 0191 445 2979 email: Macmillaninfo@ghnt.nhs.uk

Macmillan Cancer Support: 0808 239 3783 – seven days a week, 8am - 8pm.

The following organisations provides advice and support for women diagnosed with cervical cancer

The Eve Appeal - Telephone: 02076050100 or visit <https://eveappeal.org.uk>

Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust - Telephone helpline: 0808 802 8000 or visit <https://www.jostrust.org.uk/about-cervical-cancer>

Please use this page to note down any additional questions you may have

References and Acknowledgments

<http://www.leedsth.nhs.uk/assets/Uploads/Surgery-for-Cervical-Cancer-Trachelectomy2014r.pdf>

Data Protection

Any personal information is kept confidential. There may be occasions where your information needs to be shared with other care professionals to ensure you receive the best care possible.

In order to assist us to improve the services available, your information may be used for clinical audit, research, teaching and anonymised for National NHS Reviews and Statistics.

Further information is available via Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust website or by contacting the Data Protection Officer by telephone on 0191 445 8418 or by email ghnt.ig.team@nhs.net.

This leaflet can be made available in other languages and formats upon request

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