

CHOLECYSTECTOMY

- Cholecystectomy is the surgical removal of the gallbladder.
- The operation is performed to remove the gallbladder due to gallstones that cause pain or infection.

Options

- Laparoscopic cholecystectomy: The gallbladder is removed with instruments placed into small incisions in the abdomen.
- Open cholecystectomy: The gallbladder is removed through an incision on the right side under the rib cage.
- For gallstones without symptoms, conservative measures can be offered as Watchful waiting for all patients, along with increased exercise and diet changes.

Benefits of the operation

Gallbladder removal will relieve pain, treat infection, and, in most cases, stop gallstones from coming back and possibility of falling down the biliary tract causing obstruction.

Risks of the operation

Bile leak, bile duct injury, bleeding, infection of the abdominal cavity (peritonitis), fever, liver injury, infection, numbness, raised scars, hernia at the incision, anesthesia complications, puncture of the intestine, and death.

Risk of not having an operation

The possibility of continued pain, worsening symptoms, infection or bursting of the gallbladder, serious illness, and possibly death.

Expectations of the operation

If there are no complications, going home is usually in the same day after a laparoscopic procedure or in 2 to 7 days after an open procedure.

Call your surgeon

If there is severe pain, stomach cramping, chills, a high fever, odor or increased drainage from the incision, skin turns yellow, no bowel movements for 3 days, or vomiting and the inability to keep fluids down.



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