

## COLECTOMY

It is the removal of a section of the large intestine (colon) or bowel.

### Options

- **Open:** An incision is made in the abdomen and the part of the diseased colon is removed. The 2 divided ends of the colon are sutured (sewn) or stapled together in an anastomosis. If the colon cannot be sewn back together, it is brought up through the abdomen to form a colostomy.
- **Laparoscopic:** A light camera, and instruments are inserted through small holes in the abdomen to remove the diseased colon.
- **Nonsurgical option:** some diseases of the colon are treated with antibiotics, steroids, or drugs that affect the immune system.

### Benefits of the operation

Removal of diseased or cancerous sections of the intestine will relieve your symptoms and can reduce your risk of dying from cancer.

### Risks of the operation

Temporary problems with the intestine that may require a stoma; leakage from the colon into the abdomen, lung problems including pneumonia, infection of the wound, blood, or urinary system, blood clots in the veins or lung, bleeding, fistula, or death.

### Expectations of the operation

**The day of your operation:** You will not eat for 4 hours but may drink clear liquids up to 2 hours before the operation. Medication to clean out your intestines and an antibiotic may be started the day before. Most often you will take your normal medication with a sip of water.

**Recovery:** The length of stay is 3 days for a laparoscopic or open colectomy. The time from your first bowel movement to eating normally is about 3-4 days.

### Call the surgeon

If there is continued nausea, vomiting, leaking from the wound, blood in in the stool, severe pain, stomach cramping, chills, or a high fever, odor or increased drainage from the incision, a swollen abdomen or no bowel movements for 3 days.



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