

Desert West Surgery

COLON RESECTION SURGERY CONSENT

You will be scheduled to have a colon operation. The colon is also known as the large intestine or large bowel and depending on your disease process, you may have either part of or the entire colon removed.

During your operation, you will be under general anesthesia and an abdominal incision is required to get to the colon. Your surgeon may choose a laparoscopic or camera approach, utilizing smaller incisions. This approach, however, may not be feasible or successful in all cases and the larger incision operation may ultimately be needed to get to the colon safely.

You will be asked to drink a powerful laxative the day prior to your operation to cleanse the colon. This has been shown, not only to cleanse the colon of bacteria, hence decreasing the chance of infection, it also allows for easier handling of the colon. The success of this cleansing is extremely important and is measured by clear to near clear bowel movements. If this does not occur despite the laxative drink, or you are unable to drink the laxative, immediately notify your surgeon's office. Your operation in all likelihood will be postponed if your intestines are not cleansed properly.

As with all operations, complications can occur both during and after the procedure. It would be impractical and possibly misleading to describe all very rare complications in detail. Potential complications associated with your operation include bleeding, infection, leakage from the colon connection, fistula, and inability to remove the diseased area. Although these complications are often treated without operation, occasionally a second operation is needed. In addition, because the colon is in close proximity to many other organs, it is possible that either part of or the entire nearby organ may need to be removed if it involves and cannot separate from the colon. Similarly, these organs can be injured during the operation because of their proximity to the colon. These organs include the liver, gallbladder, stomach, spleen, pancreas, kidneys, ureters, urinary bladder, small intestine, remaining colon and rectum, fallopian tubes, ovaries, uterus, and vagina. In addition, because the colon is normally a contaminated organ, postoperative wound infections can also occur and are characterized by fever, wound redness, warmth, tenderness, and sometimes drainage. Treatment includes not only antibiotics but opening the skin to allow the infection to drain. In rare cases, a colostomy is brought out. A colostomy is when part of the colon is brought out through the abdominal wall to drain and may be necessary when there is poor intestinal cleansing, severe infection, intestinal blockage, or if the diseased colon cannot be removed.

Hospitalization after your colon operation generally ranges from 5 to 7 days. You should expect a gradual resumption of drinking and eating to allow for intestinal healing and in fact you may have food and drink withheld for the first several days. You may also have what is known as a NG tube which helps to drain the stomach of any excess air or fluid. Your surgeon may also decide to place a drain within the abdomen to capture any fluid that may accumulate, which usually is removed before you leave the hospital.

Despite the fact that during your operation nearby organs will be inspected, your surgeon will not be able to identify microscopic and even very small tumors. And although, the diseased part of your colon will be completely removed, it is by no means a guarantee that the disease may not return at a later time.

If any of the above is unclear to you, or if you have further questions regarding the risks, benefits, or alternatives involved with your operation, please contact your scheduler so your questions can be answered before signing. Your signature below confirms that you understand and agree with the above

I, , , certify that I have read the above or had read to me the contents of this form, and give my consent to have the abovementioned surgery performed. I understand that in spite of every skill and prudent effort made to avoid complications during this procedure, there is no guarantee that a complication will not occur.

X

X

Patient Signature (Guardian/Parent)	Witness	Date
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