

# Desert West Surgery

## LAPAROSCOPIC CHOLECYSTECTOMY SURGERY CONSENT

You will be scheduled to have your gallbladder removed. "Cholecystectomy" is the medical term to describe this. Most of the time, our surgeons will be able to perform this procedure "laparoscopically," or with cameras and small incisions (usually four). If your procedure is able to be completed laparoscopically, you usually can be discharged home as an outpatient. Until your procedure you should remain on a low fat diet to avoid further problems with your gallbladder.

Our surgeons perform nearly 1,000 cholecystectomies every year. Although this is generally a very safe operation, complications can occur as with any operative procedure. It would be impractical and possibly misleading to describe all very rare complications in detail. Examples of complications from a cholecystectomy include infection, bleeding, hernias at incision sites, diarrhea, and failure to relieve symptoms. If your procedure starts laparoscopically but needs to be completed "open," or with a larger incision, although disappointing to you and your surgeon, it is not considered a complication and is usually done for patient safety. Major complications requiring further operations or procedures occur on a national average of less than 1% and include massive bleeding requiring blood transfusions, bile duct injury, liver or spleen injury, bowel perforation, and bowel obstructions. Although not routine, your surgeon may or may not leave a temporary drain at the end of the procedure, which is usually removed after a few days in the office or hospital. Patients who have had multiple previous operations, pancreatitis, jaundice, malignancy, gangrene or multiple gallbladder attacks, or are obese, are more likely to have complications.

During "laparoscopic cholecystectomy," your surgeon will be inspecting the surface of your other intra-abdominal organs in addition to your gallbladder and liver. If your surgeon finds an unusual or suspicious area, a biopsy may be performed. This is not a replacement to your usual medical care and screening with your primary care physician. Small tumors or malignancies may not always be seen with a laparoscope, especially when within the bowel, beneath an organ surface, or in the pelvis or retroperitoneum. Having this procedure in no way means you are free of tumors or cancers.

It is common to experience shoulder pain after this procedure due to gas being trapped in the abdomen. Most patients are feeling well by 24-48 hours after a laparoscopic cholecystectomy. If you are concerned about your recovery, you should contact the Desert West Surgery nurse or physician. Special circumstances will be discussed with you by your surgeon on an individual basis.

If any of the above is unclear to you, or if you have further questions regarding risks or complications of cholecystectomy, be sure to have your scheduler obtain any further information for you from our nurse or your surgeon prior to signing this consent form below.

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