Operative Laparoscopy Informed Consent

Informed Consent

A. Condition

- Pain [ ]
- Endometriosis [ ]
- Fibroids [ ]
- Ectopic Pregnancy [ ]
- Ovarian Cyst [ ]
- Desire Sterilization [ ]

B. Procedure: Laparoscopy to Treat Above Condition

Laparoscopy is a way of doing surgery without making a large incision (cut). A thin, lighted tube—known as the laparoscope—is inserted into the abdomen through a small incision. The laparoscope is a small camera that allows your doctor to see the pelvic organs. If a problem needs to be fixed, other instruments are used. These instruments are inserted either through the laparoscope or through other small cuts in your abdomen.

Laparoscopy often is done as outpatient surgery. You usually can go home the same day, after you recover from the procedure. More complex procedures, such as laparoscopic hysterectomy, may require an overnight stay in the hospital. Before surgery, you will be given general anesthesia that puts you to sleep and blocks the pain. Local anesthesia instead of general anesthesia may be used. This type of anesthesia numbs the area, but you remain awake.
Your doctor will make a small incision in your navel and insert the laparoscope. During the procedure, the abdomen is filled with a gas (carbon dioxide). Filling the abdomen with gas allows the pelvic reproductive organs to be seen more clearly.

The laparoscope shows the pelvic organs on a screen. Other incisions may be made in the abdomen for surgical instruments. These incisions usually are no more than half an inch long. Another instrument, called a uterine manipulator, may be inserted through the cervix and into the uterus. This instrument is used to move the organs into view.

After the procedure, the instruments are removed and the small incisions are closed with stitches or tape. There will be small scars that usually fade over time. If you had general anesthesia, you will wake up in the recovery room. You will feel sleepy for a few hours. You may have some nausea from the anesthesia. You must have someone drive you home.

For a few days after the procedure, you may feel tired and have some discomfort. You may be sore around the incisions made in your abdomen and navel. Sometimes, the tube put in your throat to help you breathe during the surgery may give you a sore throat for a few days. If so, try throat lozenges or gargle with warm salt water. You may feel pain in your shoulder or back. This pain is from the gas used during the procedure. It goes away on its own within hours or a day or two. If pain and nausea do not go away after a few days or become worse, you should contact your doctor.

Your doctor will let you know when you can get back to your normal activities. For minor procedures, it is often 1–2 days after the surgery. For more complex procedures, it can take longer. You may be told to avoid heavy activity or exercise.

C. Risks Associated With Laparoscopy

As with any surgery, there is a small risk of problems with laparoscopy. Sometimes the problems do not appear right away. The risk that a problem will occur is related to the type of surgery that is performed. The more complex the surgery, the greater the risk.

- Bleeding or a hernia (a bulge caused by poor healing) at the incision sites
- Internal bleeding
- Infection
- Damage to a blood vessel or other organ, such as the stomach, bowel, or bladder
- Problems caused by anesthesia
- Sterilization Failure Rates 4 per 1,000

In some cases, the surgeon decides that a laparoscopy cannot be done during the surgery. An abdominal incision is made instead. If this happens, you may need to stay in the hospital for a day or two. Your recovery also will take longer.

Laparoscopy has many benefits. There is less pain after laparoscopic surgery than with
open abdominal surgery, which involves larger incisions, longer hospital stays, and a longer recovery. The risk of infection also is lower. You will be able to recover from laparoscopic surgery faster than from open abdominal surgery. It can be done as outpatient surgery, so you usually will not have to spend the night in the hospital. The smaller incisions that are used allow you to heal faster and have smaller scars.

D. The following are considered to be alternative procedures. Please feel free to discuss these procedures with your doctor.

Medical treatments known to help your condition
Standard “open” surgery with a larger incision
No treatment

E. Changing your mind
There is no obligation to undergo the procedure once having submitted this form. Please feel free to contact us at any time if you change your mind about your decision to undergo the procedure.

I have talked to my doctor and read the detailed description of my procedure. I understand the risks, benefits, and alternatives of my Laparoscopic Procedure.

PATIENT SIGNATURE __________________________________________
Please Print and Sign

PHYSICIAN SIGNATURE ________________________________________

WITNESS SIGNATURE ________________________________
Please Print and Sign

DATE __________