

## **DIAGNOSTIC LAPAROSCOPY**

This is a procedure where we insert a camera into your abdomen to look around to see what is causing you pain or difficulty. This is done at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital.

It is a day surgery procedure, meaning that you come and go home on the same day. You are legally intoxicated for 24 hours following the anesthetic, so someone needs to drive you home from the surgery.

After checking in at admitting and then daycare, you are brought to the operating room. An IV is started and you are put to sleep with a general anesthetic. Your abdomen is cleaned off and a needle is inserted through your belly button to blow your belly up with gas. A camera is then placed. Under visualization from the camera, a second incision is made in your abdomen to allow instruments to be passed. Additional incisions with additional instruments will be based on what is found in your abdomen.

### **Risks of the procedure:**

- Risk of general anesthetic. There are minimal risk of general anesthesia that are less than the risk of getting into a car crash.
- A small chance of damaging something upon entry in you abdomen, such as, bowels, bladder or blood vessels. There is a 1:800 risk of needing to open your abdomen, like a c-section incision, to repair the damage that is caused upon entry.
- A small risk of clot in your legs, moving up to your lungs. You are encouraged to get up and walk around following surgery to decrease this risk.
- There is a small risk of infection. The risk of infection with the procedure is so low, we do not give you an antibiotic as prophylaxis.
- Small risk of bleeding, 1:800 chance of needing a blood transfusion. Risk of a blood transfusion in Canada is very minimal as all the blood is screened. It is important that you go to the lab prior to your surgery and have your blood work drawn as we are ensuring that there is a match of blood in the hospital, in case of emergency.

Most patients after the procedure can manage the pain with just Advil and Tylenol. There are no restrictions of activities or lifting or sexual activity following your surgery.