

# Laparoscopic Nephrectomy

Laparoscopic Nephrectomy is a minimally invasive surgical approach to the removal of the kidney. This procedure is usually done for kidney cancer, but can also be used for removal of non-functional kidneys as well. The approach uses keyhole surgery to introduce small surgical instruments through ~1 cm incisions and employs a small endoscopic camera for visualization. (See Laparoscopic Surgery).

## Advantages of Laparoscopic Nephrectomy

Laparoscopic nephrectomy offers a much more rapid recovery time for patients and allows them to return to work more quickly than standard open surgery. It also results in a lower requirement for pain medication both in the hospital and results in less pain in the post-operative recovery period. It also avoids the potential long term pain of a flank incision and the long surgical scar that results from the flank approach.

## Are cancer control rates the same as open surgery?

Yes, cancer control rates with laparoscopic nephrectomy are equivalent to open surgery. The incidence of recurrence in the incisions for laparoscopic surgery has been negligible and has prompted many surgeons to switch to this approach for the benefit of patients.

## Why is my surgeon advising open surgery?

Not every patient is a candidate for laparoscopic nephrectomy. Patients with previous surgery or with large masses may not be able to have laparoscopic surgery due to technical considerations. Moreover, not every urologist is comfortable with the technique and may not feel it is the best thing for their patient in certain circumstances.

## Are you a High Volume Center?

At Cheyenne Urological, we are a high volume practice for laparoscopic surgeries, so we bring that experience to bear to our patient encounters. Often, patients who were not thought to be candidates for laparoscopic nephrectomy are able to go through the procedure without significant problems.