
Laparoscopic Radical Removal of the Kidney

This involves removal of the kidney through several keyhole incisions. It requires the placement of a telescope and operating instruments into your abdominal cavity using 4–5 small incisions. The adrenal gland may also be removed and one incision will need to be enlarged to remove the kidney

This patient information leaflet is drawn from the consensus panels of many worldwide urological societies, as a supplement to any advice that you may already have been given. Alternative treatments are outlined below and can be discussed in more detail with Dr Campbell.

What are the alternatives to this procedure?

Observation, embolisation, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, open surgery

Before the procedure

Please be sure to inform Dr Campbell in advance of your procedure if you have any of the following:

- ~ An artificial heart valve
- ~ A coronary artery stent
- ~ A heart pacemaker or defibrillator
- ~ An artificial blood vessel graft
- ~ A neurosurgical shunt
- ~ Any other implanted foreign body
- ~ Blood thinning medications, particularly
 - ~ Asasantin
 - ~ Aspirin
 - ~ Fish oil
 - ~ Iscover
 - ~ Persantin
 - ~ Plavix
 - ~ Warfarin
- ~ Angina
- ~ Hypertension
- ~ Diabetes
- ~ Recent heart attack

You will usually be admitted on the day of surgery. You may be asked to attend a pre-admission clinic 5–10 days before the procedure to assess your general fitness and to perform some baseline investigations.

If you are taking warfarin, Clopidogrel, iscover, asaantin, or persantin on a regular basis, you must discuss this with Dr Campbell because these drugs can cause increased bleeding after surgery. There may be a balance of risk where stopping them will reduce the chances of bleeding but this can result in increased clotting, which may also carry a risk to your health. This will, therefore, need careful discussion with regard to risks and benefits.

You will be asked not to eat or drink for 6 hours before surgery. Immediately before the operation, you may be given a pre-medication by the anaesthetist which will make you dry-mouthed and pleasantly sleepy.

You will be given an injection under the skin of a drug (heparin), that along with the help of elasticated stockings fitted on admission, will help prevent thrombosis (clots) in the veins of the legs.

After admission, you will be seen by other members of the urological team which may include not only Dr Campbell, but the specialist registrar, the intern, your named nurse, and the physiotherapist.

The specialist registrar may perform the operation in conjunction with Dr Campbell and with your permission.

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Where do I go for my procedure?

The admissions section of the hospital at the appointed time, on the appointed day. The admissions section of the particular hospital will give you instructions well in advance of the operation. If no contact has been made telephone Dr Campbell's secretary on (07) 3367 1608, and the problem will be addressed.

Do I need to do anything special before my procedure?

You will need to not drink or eat anything for 6 hours prior to the procedure.

During the procedure

A full general anaesthetic will be used and you will be asleep throughout the procedure. In some patients, the anaesthetist may also use an epidural anaesthetic which improves or minimises pain post-operatively.

In this operation, the kidney is dissected free through several keyhole incisions and put into a bag which is then removed by extending one of the keyhole incisions, or through a small incision just above the pubic hair-line. A bladder catheter is normally inserted during the operation to monitor urine output and a drainage tube may be placed through the skin into the bed of the kidney.

The operation takes approximately 3–4 hours to complete.

Immediately after the procedure

After the procedure, You will be given fluids to drink from an early stage after the operation and you will be encouraged to mobilise as soon as you are comfortable to prevent blood clots forming in your legs. The wound drain and catheter are normally removed after 24–48 hours. The average hospital stay is 4 days.

Are there any side-effects?

Most procedures have a potential for side-effects and these are outlined below. Please use the check circles to tick off individual items when you are happy that they have been discussed to your satisfaction:

Common (greater than 1 in 10)

- Temporary shoulder tip pain
- Temporary abdominal bloating
- Temporary insertion of a bladder catheter and wound drain

Occasional (between 1 in 10 & 1 in 50)

- Bleeding, infection, pain or hernia of the incision requiring further treatment
- Technical difficulty or significant risk of adverse event requiring conversion to open surgery.

Rare (less than 1 in 50)

- Bleeding requiring conversion to open surgery or requiring blood transfusion
- Entry into lung cavity requiring insertion of a temporary drain
- The histological abnormality may eventually turn out not to be cancer
- Recognised (or unrecognised) injury to organs/blood vessels requiring conversion to open surgery (or deferred open surgery)
- Involvement or injury to nearby local structures (blood vessels, spleen, liver, kidney, lung, pancreas, bowel) requiring more extensive surgery
- Anaesthetic or cardiovascular problems possibly requiring intensive care admission (including chest infection, pulmonary embolus, stroke, deep vein thrombosis, heart attack and death)
- Dialysis may be required to stabilise your kidney function if your other kidney functions poorly

General side-effects of any procedure

Any operative procedure that involves regional (spinal) or general anaesthetic can have side-effects. These are explained in the leaflet on anaesthesia.

Hospital-acquired infection

- ~ Colonisation with MRSA (0.9%, 1 in 110)
- ~ Clostridium difficile bowel infection (0.2%; 1 in 500)
- ~ MRSA bloodstream infection (0.08%; 1 in 1,250)

(These rates may be greater in high-risk patients e.g. with long-term drainage tubes, after removal of the bladder for cancer, after previous infections, after prolonged hospitalisation or after multiple admissions)

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What should I expect when I get home?

There may be some discomfort from the small incisions in your abdomen but this can normally be controlled with simple painkillers. All the wounds are closed with absorbable stitches which do not require removal. It will take 10–14 days to recover fully from the procedure and most people can return to normal activities after 2–4 weeks. Patients can feel tired for several months following surgery.

When you leave hospital, a discharge summary of your admission will be sent to your family doctor. This holds important information about your inpatient stay and your operation.

What else should I look out for?

If you develop a temperature, increased redness, throbbing or drainage at the site of the operation, please contact Dr Campbell or your family doctor.

For after hours emergencies Dr Campbell can be contacted on (07) 3367 1608.

The Wesley Hospital Emergency Centre (07) 3232 7333, and The Greenslopes Private Hospital Emergency Centre (07) 3394 7111 are other resources that are also available.

Are there any other specific points?

Prior to discharge the results of any pathology tests on the removed kidney will be discussed with you and the need for any further treatments discussed at that stage. You will be asked to make a follow-up appointment 6–12 weeks after the operation. Your family doctor will be informed of the results. After removal of one kidney, there is no need for any dietary or fluid restrictions since your remaining kidney can handle fluids and waste products with no difficulty.

Is there any research being carried out in this field?

There is no specific research in this area at the moment but all operative procedures performed are subject to rigorous audit at monthly Audit & Clinical Governance meetings.

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Who can I contact for more help or information?

Dr Peter Campbell

Suite 9, level 9, Evan Thomson Building, The Wesley Hospital,
Chasely St,
Auchenflower, QLD 4066
(07) 3367 1608,
www.campbellurology.com.au

The Wesley Hospital, Urology Ward

451 Coronation Drive,
Auchenflower, QLD 4066
(07) 3232 7168
www.uhc.com.au/wesley

The Wesley Emergency Centre

451 coronation Drive,
Auchenflower, QLD 4066
(07) 3232 7333

Greenslopes Private Hospital, Continence Advisor

Newdgate St,
Greenslopes, QLD 4120
(07) 3394 7978
www.greenslopesprivate.com.au

Greenslopes Private Hospital Urology Ward

Newdgate St,
Greenslopes, QLD 4120
(07) 3394 7261
www.greenslopesprivate.com.au

Greenslopes Private Hospital Emergency Centre

Newdgate St,
Greenslopes, QLD 4120
(07) 3394 6777
www.greenslopesprivate.com.au

**The Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Hospital,
Urodynamics Department**

Kessels Rd,
Coopers plains, QLD 4108
(07) 3275 6346

American Urological Association Foundation

1000 Corporate Blvd, Suite 410,
Linthicum, MD 21090
1800 828 7866
www.UrologyHealth.org

Thank you for taking the trouble to read this information sheet. If you are satisfied with the explanation of the test, please sign below and this leaflet will be filed in your chart.

If you wish to retain a copy for you own records, one will be provided.

I have read this information sheet and I accept the information it provides.

Signature

Date
