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CR17lite Laparoscopic Reversal of Hartmann's Procedure

Expires end of December 2019

A more detailed version of this procedure specific information sheet is available. Please ask your health practitioner at any Western Australian public hospital for a copy.

Write questions or notes here:

This document will give you information about laparoscopic reversal of Hartmann's procedure. If you have any questions, you should ask your GP or other relevant health professional.

What is Hartmann's procedure?

Hartmann's procedure involves removing a piece of large bowel (colon). It is usually performed as an emergency. The two ends of bowel were not joined together because your surgeon decided the risks were too high. Your surgeon made a colostomy (your large bowel opening onto your skin). The other end was closed as a rectal stump (see figure 1). Your surgeon has decided it is safe to join the two ends of your bowel back together.

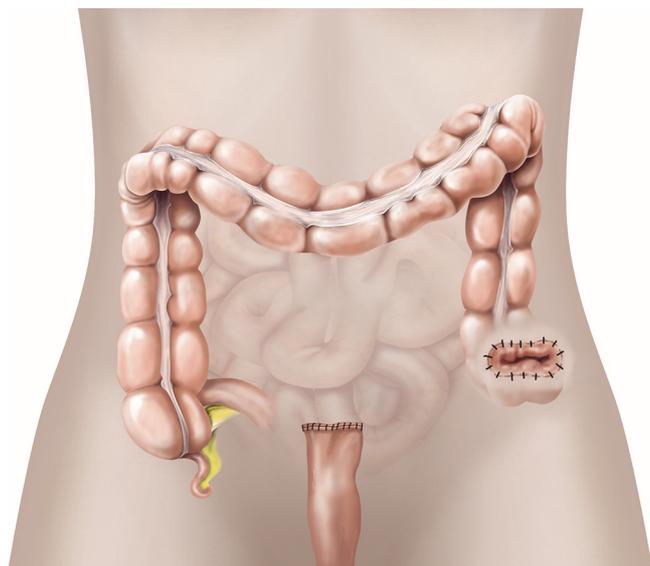


Figure 1
A Hartmann's procedure

What are the benefits of surgery?

You should be able to open your bowels in the normal way and you should no longer have a stoma bag.

What does the operation involve?

The operation is performed under a general anaesthetic and usually takes about 90 minutes to two hours.

Your surgeon will make several small cuts on your abdomen. They will insert surgical instruments, along with a telescope, inside your abdomen and perform the operation.

Your surgeon will join the two ends of your bowel back together and place your bowel inside your abdominal cavity.

What complications can happen?

1 General complications

- Pain
- Bleeding
- Infection of the surgical site (wound)
- Chest infection
- Unsightly scarring
- Developing a hernia in the scar
- Blood clots

2 Specific complications

- Damage to internal structures
- Developing a hernia near one of the cuts
- Surgical emphysema
- Anastomotic leak
- Continued bowel paralysis
- Diarrhoea
- Death

How soon will I recover?

It is usual for your bowel to stop working for a few days.

You should be able to go home after 3 to 11 days. It can take up to three months to return to normal activities.

Regular exercise should help you to return to normal activities as soon as possible. Before you start exercising, ask the healthcare team or your GP for advice.

Most people make a good recovery.

Summary

Reversal of Hartmann's procedure will allow you to open your bowels in the normal way. You will no longer need a stoma bag.

Acknowledgements

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