

Laparoscopy/Minor Laparoscopic Surgery

After the Operation

Going home

After a laparoscopy or minor laparoscopic operation children are usually allowed to go home the same day. However, some children may require a longer time to recover, and very occasionally some children may have to remain in hospital overnight. If this happens the reason for this will be discussed with you.

The wound

There will be a very small wound at the edge of the umbilicus (tummy button). There may also be one or two other tiny wounds on the abdomen (tummy). They will be closed with dissolving sutures (stitches) and may have a small dressing on them. The dressing can be removed after 2-3 days. The wounds may be a little red or bruised in the first day or two but this is normal and should settle after that. If the redness worsens or there is yellow or greenish discharge (pus) from the wound please contact your GP or the ward for further advice.

Pain

Some discomfort will be experienced following the operation. We advise that paracetamol and/or ibuprofen can be given regularly following the instructions on the bottle.

Depending on the type of laparoscopic operation, your child may also be given 3 doses of morphine oral solution to take home to use in the first 24 hours after the operation.

Bathing

You can shower or bath your child after 48 hours, but avoid soaking in the bath for the first week. The wounds should be kept clean and dry. No creams, ointments or talc should be used on, or near any of the wounds.

Play and school

Children can return to normal activities as they feel able. It should be possible to return to school within one week, however recovery time varies and your child may need a little longer.

Swimming, gym and other sports should be avoided for at least two weeks or until the wounds have healed.

Questions and problems

Recovery after a laparoscopy/minor laparoscopic operation is normally quick. If any of the following occur it may indicate a problem and we would recommend you contact the hospital as soon as possible for advice:

- Abdominal (tummy) pain which is severe or not helped by painkillers
- Not eating or drinking or refusing to eat or drink
- Feeling sick or vomiting
- Swollen abdomen (tummy)
- Not passing urine/dry nappies
- A high temperature.

Your surgeon/consultant is _____

A follow up appointment has/has not been arranged on

_____ at _____

We hope this leaflet has been useful. If you have any further questions, please ask a member of staff before you leave.

Royal Hospital for Children and Young People
50 Little France Crescent
Edinburgh EH16 4TJ
Tel.: **0131 536 1000**

Surgical Admission Unit (Crichton Ward): **0131 312 0970** (Mon - Fri, 8am – 6.30pm)

Laparoscopy/Minor Laparoscopic Surgery – After the Operation
Surgical Admission Unit (Crichton Ward)