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General, Thoracic
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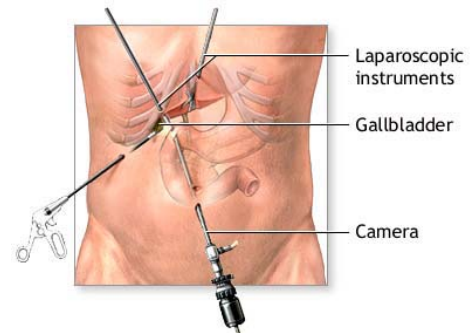
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Laparoscopic Gallbladder Surgery

The surgeons at Rocky Mountain Surgical Associates are specialists in gallbladder disease and surgery of the gallbladder. Our surgeons perform laparoscopic gallbladder surgery on a **daily** basis, in both emergency and elective situations. For this reason, it is described as very safe, and very effective in treating your gallbladder condition. We want our patients to have a comprehensive understanding of the reasons for surgery, what the operation involves, and how recovery is expected to proceed.

Laparoscopic gallbladder surgery is done using a laparoscope, or a small “telescope” attached to a camera. It allows your surgeon to get a close up view of your gallbladder using only small incisions. The operation usually takes 30-60 minutes and most patients go home the day of surgery if their health condition permits. A pain pill is usually prescribed at discharge.

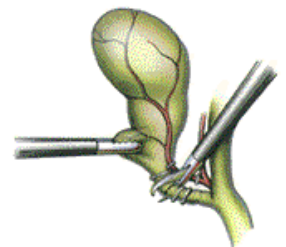
You'll be given general anesthesia to keep you free of pain during surgery. A small incision is made near your belly button. Harmless gas is placed into your abdomen through this incision. The gas creates a space so the operation can be performed. Then, the laparoscope is inserted through the same incision. The tiny camera projects onto a video monitor allowing your surgeon to see the gallbladder. Small instruments are then inserted through other small incisions in your abdomen.



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Your surgeon will find the gallbladder and may perform a cholangiogram. This is a special type of X-ray that is taken of your bile duct. This X-ray is done to reveal stones that may already have passed into the duct. Stones may be removed at the same time.

Your gallbladder is removed from its attachments using the small instruments and brought out through one of the incisions.



Once your surgery is complete, the gas will be released from your abdomen. You may have sutures in your skin that will need to be removed in our office. Dressings or band aids will be placed over your incisions, and may be replaced at anytime as needed. Dressings may also be removed before showering (24 hours) if you wish, and replaced.

You will need to return to your surgeon's office for a postoperative visit ten to fourteen days after your surgery. Living without your gallbladder is usually without side effects, similar to living without your tonsils or appendix. Rarely, patients will notice loose bowel movements after meals. If this occurs it is usually quickly reversed with medication to bulk up the stool. Your surgeon will discuss this with you at your post-op visit.

R. Macdonald, M.D.