

Dr David A Clark

MBBS(Qld) FRACS FRCSEd

General & Colorectal Surgery
Upper GI Endoscopy & Colonoscopy
ABN: 68 676 182 920

Wesley Medical Centre
40 Chaselly Street
Auchenflower 4066

Provider No: 2029033W

Phone: 3350 2088
Fax: 3350 2333

All correspondence to:
Holy Spirit Northside
Medical Centre
627 Rode Road
Chermside 4032

Laparoscopic Colo-rectal Surgery (Keyhole Surgery)

Most people have heard of laparoscopic surgery. Laparoscopic cholecystectomy (keyhole surgery to remove the gall bladder) and laparoscopic appendicectomy (keyhole surgery to remove the appendix) have been performed safely for many years.

Keyhole surgery reduces the size of the incisions to remove diseased organs. It reduces the development of adhesions and there is some evidence that cancer outcomes are improved.

Benefits:

- Less pain
- Shorter stay in hospital
- Quicker return to work

Laparoscopic Surgery has recently been applied to bowel surgery, but is only available in specialised Colo-rectal units. Australia leads the UK in this respect.

Which operations are suitable?

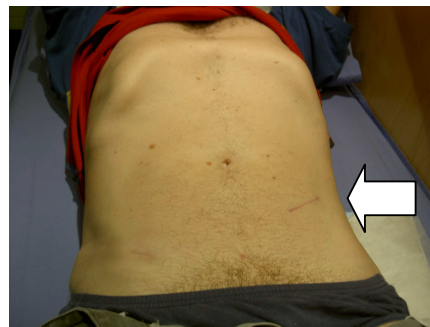
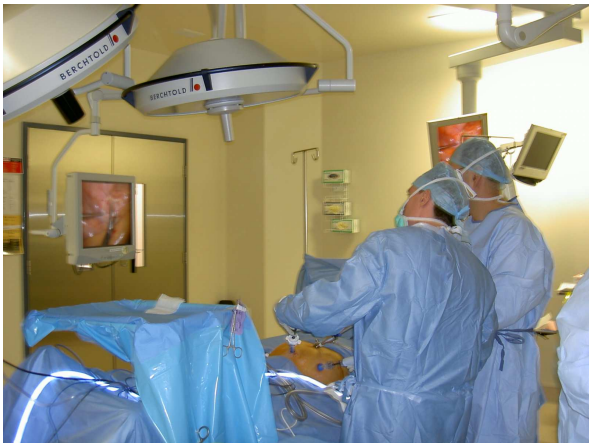
Benign Disease

Conditions such as diverticular disease, inflammatory bowel disease (Ulcerative Colitis & Crohn's Disease), rectal prolapse and certain colonic polyps are ideal cases for "minimally invasive surgery".

Cancer

Patients with operable bowel cancer are currently being randomised into a multi-centre Australia-wide trial. There is however good evidence from around the world that outcomes are at least as good as open surgery and some reports that survival is improved. It is thought that this is because the stress on the body is lessened.

Technological advances have led to better images and in fact the laparoscopic view is often better than at open surgery due to magnification. I don't doubt that the majority of surgery will be performed this way in the future.



Incisions at major colectomy

State of the art operating theatres at the Holy Spirit