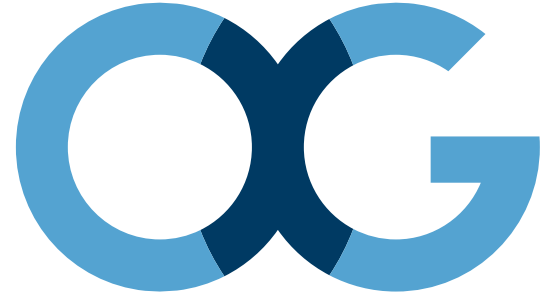


Diagnostic Laparoscopy



How can a diagnostic laparoscopy help?

Diagnostic laparoscopy is a keyhole operation to look inside the abdomen (tummy). The commonest problem that leads women to have this procedure is abdominal or pelvic pain. It can be used to diagnose or stage endometriosis.

Keyhole surgery, where possible, has benefits over open surgery. These benefits include: a quicker recovery; less pain; less time in hospital; and a faster return to work.

What are the risks of diagnostic laparoscopy?

All treatments and procedures have risks and we will talk to you about the risks of diagnostic laparoscopy. Risks can be divided up into two categories common (less serious) and rare (more serious).

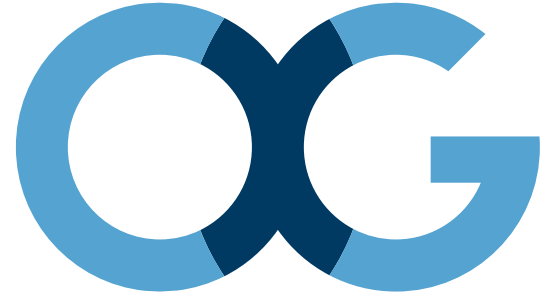
Problems that may happen straight away

Common risks of diagnostic laparoscopy include: general abdominal pain; shoulder pain; wound infection; urinary tract infection; pelvic infection; and difficulty passing urine; and bleeding. There can be side-effects associated with general anaesthesia and include nausea, vomiting and a sore throat. The anaesthetic doctor will discuss these.

Problems that may happen later

Future risks are uncommon with diagnostic laparoscopic procedures. It is unlikely that this diagnostic procedure will help treat symptoms.

Diagnostic Laparoscopy



Problems that are rare, but serious

Rare but more serious complications include injury to internal organs such as the bowel, bladder, ureters (tubes that connect the kidneys to the bladder) or major blood vessels.

There is also a risk of forming blood clots in the legs or lungs or having a severe allergic reaction to drugs used during surgery. There is a small risk of developing a hernia at the site of the cuts.

What additional procedures may be required?

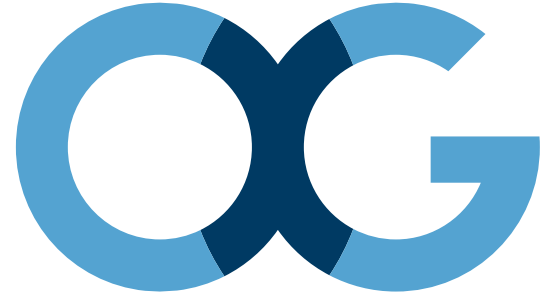
Additional procedures that may become necessary but are not planned during your surgery include a blood transfusion if there is heavy bleeding.

If this bleeding continues or there is injury to other organs, the surgery may be converted from keyhole to open surgery to try and stop the bleeding or perform a repair of an injury. This can be associated with more pain and a longer recovery period. Formation of a stoma (where the bowel is brought to the tummy wall, requiring a bag on the tummy to collect stools) is very rarely needed.

What will happen if I choose not to have diagnostic laparoscopy?

If you choose against having a diagnostic laparoscopy the symptoms which led you to the gynaecological clinic are likely to continue.

Diagnostic Laparoscopy



What alternatives are available?

The alternatives available include: doing nothing; taking medical treatments; and other surgical procedures.

Doing nothing is unlikely to change your symptoms. Medical treatments can help control pain but do not necessarily remove the cause of pain. Medical treatments can also have side-effects. These should be covered in your consultation with the doctor.