

SINGLE PORT ACCESS LAPAROSCOPIC CHOLECYSTECTOMY

03/31/2009

Volume No. 1

Just when you thought laparoscopic cholecystectomy could not get any better.....it did!

Single Port Access (SPA) Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy has shown even greater benefit over the traditional laparoscopic procedure. Where the standard laparoscopic cholecystectomy requires four small incisions for introduction of laparoscopic instruments the new technique uses only one. The result is even less pain, no visible scar and shorter recovery than the already well tolerated procedure.

The trick to the new technique is placing three or four small instruments through the one skin incision at the umbilicus. This is made possible by the use of a small caliber articulating laparoscope angled away from the other instruments while still giving the clear view of the operative field. The new laparoscope resembles an endoscope used for colonoscopy or upper endoscopy with a flexible tip that can be angled to look in any direction.

The operation on the inside at the gallbladder itself is unchanged from the standard laparoscopic technique. Surgical clips are used to ligate the duct and artery and cautery is used to remove the gallbladder from the liver bed. The gallbladder is then removed through the one incision at the umbilicus.



What's missing from this cholecystectomy patient's picture? Incisions!

One benefit of having only one incision is less pain. The most dramatic benefit is that the one incision is hidden inside the umbilicus so it is possible to perform a cholecystectomy with almost no visible scar.

Dr. Clark Gerhart, M.D., F.A.C.S. is at the forefront of introducing this procedure in Pennsylvania. He has been performing this procedure for over three months now and has had impressive results. The patients really love the new technique. No other surgeon in Northeastern Pennsylvania currently performs SPA laparoscopic surgery.

Single Port Access Laparoscopy is also being investigated for other procedures. The new technique has been used for laparoscopic appendectomy and exploratory laparoscopy. Further work is being done to determine the benefits for other laparoscopic procedures.

To see if you or your patients are a candidate for the new laparoscopic techniques, simply call Dr. Gerhart's office.



Surgical Specialists of Wyoming Valley
200 South River Street
Plains, Pa 18705
Dr. Clark Gerhart
570-821-1100

