COMMON TYPES OF COLON AND RECTAL SURGERY

There are many kinds of colon and rectal surgery. The specific type of surgery is determined by the location of the disease.

**Right hemicolecotomy**
The surgeon removes the ascending colon and a portion of the transverse colon and then connects the transverse colon to the end of the small intestine.

**Left hemicolecotomy**
The surgeon removes a portion of the transverse colon, the descending colon, and the sigmoid colon and then connects the transverse colon to the rectum.

**Sigmoid colectomy**
The surgeon removes the diseased portion of the sigmoid colon and then connects the descending colon to the rectum.

**Lower anterior resection (LAR)**
The surgeon removes the diseased portion of the rectum and then reconnects it to the descending colon.
In South Africa (SA), colorectal cancer (CRC) is the fourth most common cancer among both men and women. The crude incidence is 7.17/100,000/year for men and 5.80/100,000/year for women. Surgeons traditionally have performed colon and rectal surgery with an “open” procedure. But, increasingly, surgeons are performing minimally invasive, or laparoscopic, procedures for colon and rectal disease.

**OPEN VERSUS MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY**

In an open procedure, surgeons use a long incision so they can see into the body. But because this fairly large incision cuts through both the skin and muscles of the abdomen, patients can take several weeks — or months — to fully recover, and it is often very painful.

To perform minimally invasive colon or rectal surgery, surgeons use a laparoscope (a slender tube-like device with a camera), other specialized instruments, and several small incisions to view inside the body. Without the need for a large incision, they can perform the surgery without cutting through as much abdominal tissue.

**BENEFITS OF MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY**

Compared to open colon and rectal surgery, minimally invasive surgery has many benefits, including:

- **Shorter hospital stay**
- **Faster return to normal activities**
- **Smaller scars**
- **Less risk of infection**
- **Less pain**

† Based on calculations of average scar size for laparoscopic and open procedures

**REFERENCES**


Minimally invasive colon and rectal surgery offers many significant benefits that cannot be achieved with traditional open surgery. While not everyone is a candidate, most people are. Be sure to ask your surgeon if you are a good candidate for minimally invasive surgery.

To learn more, visit medtronic.com/covidien/en-za/index.html