MINIMALLY 
INVASIVE 
SURGERY 
FOR DISEASES 
OF THE COLON 
AND RECTUM 

Patient Information Guide
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
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 hemicolectomy**
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 hemicolectomy**
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.
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 aboutmis.com.