

## LS01 Recognising a complication after laparoscopic surgery

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You can get information locally by contacting the Senior Nurse on duty at your local Ramsay Health Care hospital or treatment centre.

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[www.asgbi.org.uk](http://www.asgbi.org.uk)

[www.pre-op.org](http://www.pre-op.org)

## What are the benefits of laparoscopic (keyhole) surgery?

You will usually need to stay in hospital for only a short time and your recovery should be faster compared to open surgery (which involves a larger cut).

Any pain should last for just a few hours and you should continue to improve over the first few days.

## What symptoms should I be aware of?

### 1 Symptoms that may need urgent treatment

Using keyhole surgery means it is more difficult for your surgeon to notice some complications that may happen during the operation. They may damage structures such as your bowel, bladder or blood vessels (risk: less than 3 in 1,000). This damage may become obvious only after you have returned home.

When you are recovering, you need to be aware of the following symptoms as they may show that you have a serious complication.

- Pain that gets worse over time or is severe when you move, breathe or cough.
- A high temperature or fever.
- Dizziness, feeling faint or shortness of breath.
- Feeling sick or not having any appetite (and this gets worse after the first one to two days).
- Not opening your bowels and not passing wind.
- Swelling of your abdomen.
- Difficulty passing urine.

If you do not continue to improve over the first few days, or if you have any of these symptoms, let the healthcare team know straightaway.

If you are at home, contact the hospital using the phone numbers on this leaflet. You can also contact the ward you were in at hospital or your GP.

In an emergency, call an ambulance or go immediately to your nearest Emergency department.

### 2 Symptoms that may need further treatment

There are other, less urgent, complications that may happen after you have returned home. You need to be aware of the following symptoms as you may need further treatment.

- Pain, swelling or redness in your leg, or the veins near the surface of your leg appearing larger than normal. You may have a deep-vein thrombosis. Let your doctor know straightaway.
- A high temperature, pus in your wound, or if your wound becomes red, sore or painful. You may have a wound infection and may need antibiotics from your GP.
- A lump under a wound. This could be caused by a collection of blood or fluid, or it may be a hernia. Contact your GP.

**Keep this information leaflet. Use it to help you if you need to talk to a healthcare professional.**

#### Acknowledgements

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**This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you.**