



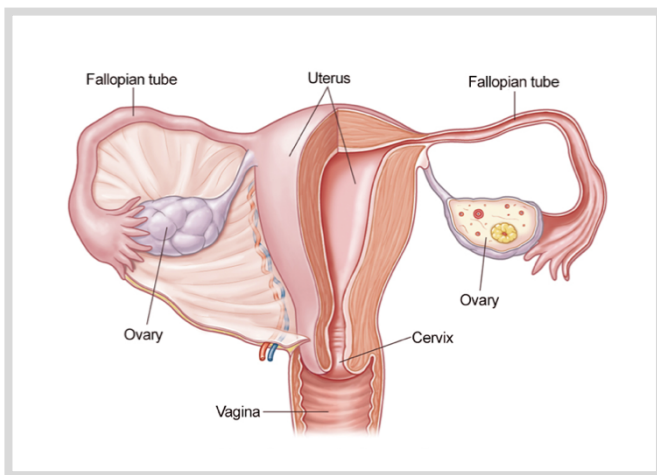
WHAT IS AN ABDOMINAL SURGERY?

Abdominal surgery (also called open surgery, or laparotomy) is surgery performed through a conventional incision on the abdomen. The incision is usually transverse, but may be vertical in select cases.



Low transverse incision

Vertical (midline) incision



WHAT SURGERIES ARE DONE ABDOMINALLY?

Most gynecological surgeries can now be performed by laparoscopy; however, abdominal surgery may be required in cases of very large uterine fibroids or invasive placentas.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT IN TERMS OF RECOVERY AFTER AN ABDOMINAL SURGERY?

Hysterectomies performed through an abdominal incision require a short admission to the hospital for 2-3 days. Recovery time is approximately 6 weeks.

After surgery, avoid heavy lifting and immersing yourself in water for 1 month. In the case of a hysterectomy, avoid intercourse for 8 weeks after surgery.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF AN ABDOMINAL SURGERY?

● General Anesthesia

All laparoscopy is done with general anesthesia, which means being put to sleep and using a breathing tube to help you breathe.

● Infection

Generally a small risk for this kind of surgery, however antibiotics may be given intravenously while you are asleep, according to the surgeon's discretion.

● Bleeding

All patients must be aware of a risk of excessive bleeding and potentially requiring a blood transfusion before surgery. While this is considered a low risk surgery for transfusion, we require signed consent or refusal for blood products prior to surgery.

● Blood clots

Walking after surgery is very important to decrease this risk. Additionally, you may be given a dose of anticoagulation during surgery to reduce this risk.

● Injury to other organs

Other organs or structures may be injured during surgery including, but not limited to:

- Bowel (small and large intestine)
- Bladder
- Ureters (connecting tubes from kidneys to bladder)
- Blood vessels
- Nerves

If an injury occurs and is identified at the time of surgery, any necessary repairs will be done at the same time.

This may seem like an intimidating list – while surgery usually goes very well, without any complication, it is important to be aware of all the risks involved.

For more information, ask your family doctor to send a referral to: **514-856-5607**

Or visit www.muhc-obgyn.com



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