LAPAROSCOPIC RADICAL REMOVAL OF THE KIDNEY AND URETER
Procedure Specific Information

What is the evidence base for this information?
This publication includes advice from consensus panels, the British Association of Urological Surgeons, the Department of Health and evidence-based sources. It is, therefore, a reflection of best urological practice in the UK. It is intended to supplement any advice you may already have been given by your GP or other healthcare professionals. Alternative treatments are outlined below and can be discussed in more detail with your Urologist or Specialist Nurse.

What does the procedure involve?
This involves removal of the kidney (and surrounding fat) for suspected cancer of the kidney. It requires the placement of operating instruments into your abdominal cavity using 4-5 small incisions. The lower ureter is removed at the same procedure.

What are the alternatives to this procedure?
Observation, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, open surgery

What should I expect before the procedure?
You will usually be admitted on the same day as your surgery. You will normally receive an appointment for pre-assessment to assess your general fitness, to screen for the carriage of MRSA and to perform some baseline investigations. After admission, you will be seen by members of the medical team which may include the Consultant, Specialist Registrar, House Officer and your named nurse.

You will be asked not to eat or drink for 6 hours before surgery and, immediately before the operation, you may be given a pre-medication by the anaesthetist which will make you dry-mouthed and pleasantly sleepy.

You will be given an injection under the skin of a drug (Clexane), that, along with the help of elasticated stockings provided by the ward, will help prevent thrombosis (clots) in the veins.

Please be sure to inform your surgeon in advance of your surgery if you have any of the following:
- an artificial heart valve
- a coronary artery stent
• a heart pacemaker or defibrillator
• an artificial joint
• an artificial blood vessel graft
• a neurosurgical shunt
• any other implanted foreign body
• a regular prescription for Warfarin, Aspirin or Clopidogrel (Plavix®)
• a previous or current MRSA infection
• a high risk of variant-CJD (if you have received a corneal transplant, a neurosurgical dural transplant or previous injections of human-derived growth hormone)

At some stage during the admission process, you will be asked to sign the second part of the consent form giving permission for your operation to take place, showing you understand what is to be done and confirming that you wish to proceed. Make sure that you are given the opportunity to discuss any concerns and to ask any questions you may still have before signing the form.

Fact File 1 • The NHS Constitution

Same-Sex Accommodation

As a result of the new NHS constitution, the NHS is committed to providing same-sex accommodation in hospitals by April 2010. This is because feedback from patients has shown that being in mixed-sex accommodation can compromise their privacy. The NHS pledges that:

• sleeping and washing areas for men and women will be provided
• the facilities will be easy to get to and not too far from patients' beds

To help accomplish this, the Department of Health has announced specific measures designed to “all but eliminate mixed-sex accommodation” by 2010. These include:

• more money for improvements in hospital accommodation
• providing help and information to hospital staff, patients and the public
• sending improvement teams to hospitals that need extra support
• introducing measures so that the Department can see how hospitals are progressing

What happens during the procedure?

Normally, a full general anaesthetic will be used and you will be asleep throughout the procedure. In some patients, the anaesthetist may also use an epidural anaesthetic which improves or minimises pain post-operatively.

The kidney and most of the ureter are usually dissected free through several keyhole incisions. The lower ureter is disconnected either using a telescope through the bladder or
with a separate incision into the lower abdomen

A bladder catheter is normally inserted post-operatively, to monitor urine output, and a drainage tube is usually placed through the skin into the bed of the kidney.

What happens immediately after the procedure?
In general terms, you should expect to be told how the procedure went and you should:

- ask if what was planned to be done was achieved
- let the medical staff know if you are in any discomfort
- ask what you can and cannot do
- feel free to ask any questions or discuss any concerns with the ward staff and members of the surgical team
- ensure that you are clear about what has been done and what is the next move

You will be given fluids to drink from an early stage after the operation and you will be encouraged to mobilise early to prevent blood clots in the veins of your legs. The wound drain will need to remain in place for up to 1 week in case urine leaks from the cut surface of the bladder.

The average hospital stay is 7 days.

Are there any side-effects?
Most procedures have a potential for side-effects. You should be reassured that, although all these complications are well-recognised, the majority of patients do not suffer any problems after a urological procedure.

Common (greater than 1 in 10)
- Temporary shoulder tip pain
- Temporary abdominal bloating
- Temporary insertion of a bladder catheter and wound drain
- Recurrence of disease elsewhere in the urinary tract which requires regular telescopic examinations of the bladder for follow-up

Occasional (between 1 in 10 and 1 in 50)
- Bleeding, infection, pain or hernia of the incision requiring further surgery
- Need for additional treatment for cancer after surgery

Rare (less than 1 in 50)
- Entry into the lung cavity requiring insertion of a temporary drainage tube
- Recognised (or unrecognised) injury to organs/blood vessels requiring conversion to open surgery (or deferred open surgery)
• Anaesthetic or cardiovascular problems possibly requiring intensive care admission (including chest infection, pulmonary embolus, stroke, deep vein thrombosis, heart attack and death)
• The histological abnormality in the kidney may subsequently be shown not to be cancer
• Persistent urine leakage from the bladder requiring prolonged catheterisation or further surgery

Hospital-acquired infection
• Colonisation with MRSA (0.9% - 1 in 110)
• Clostridium difficile bowel infection (0.2% - 1 in 500)
• MRSA bloodstream infection (0.08% - 1 in 1250)

The rates for hospital-acquired infection may be greater in high-risk patients e.g. with long-term drainage tubes, after removal of the bladder for cancer, after previous infections, after prolonged hospitalisation or after multiple admissions.

What should I expect when I get home?
By the time of your discharge from hospital, you should:

• be given advice about your recovery at home
• ask when to resume normal activities such as work, exercise, driving, housework and sexual intimacy
• ask for a contact number if you have any concerns once you return home
• ask when your follow-up will be and who will do this (the hospital or your GP)
• ensure that you know when you will be told the results of any tests done on tissues or organs which have been removed

When you leave hospital, you will be given a “draft” discharge summary of your admission. This holds important information about your inpatient stay and your operation. If you need to call your GP for any reason or to attend another hospital, please take this summary with you to allow the doctors to see details of your treatment. This is particularly important if you need to consult another doctor within a few days of your discharge.

It will be at least 14 days before healing of the wound occurs but it may take up to 6 weeks before you feel fully recovered from the surgery. You may return to work when you are comfortable enough and your GP is satisfied with your progress.

Many patients have persistent twinges of discomfort in the wounds which can go on for several months.
What else should I look out for?

If you develop a temperature, increased redness, throbbing or drainage at the site of the operation, please contact your GP.

Any other post-operative problems should also be reported to your GP, especially if they involve chest symptoms.

Are there any other important points?

It will be at least 14-21 days before the pathology results on your kidney are available. It is normal practice for the results of all biopsies to be discussed in detail at a multi-disciplinary meeting before any further treatment decisions are made. You and your GP will be informed of the results after this discussion.

An outpatient appointment will be made for you 4-6 weeks after the operation when we will be able to inform you of the pathology results and give you a plan for follow-up.

Once the results have been discussed, it may be necessary for further treatment but this will be discussed with you by your Consultant or Specialist Nurse.

You will usually need to undergo regular bladder inspections to check that the growth that involved your kidney is not affecting the bladder lining.

Driving after surgery

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are fit to drive following your surgery. You do not normally need to notify the DVLA unless you have a medical condition that will last for longer than 3 months after your surgery and may affect your ability to drive. You should, however, check with your insurance company before returning to driving. Your doctors will be happy to provide you with advice on request.

Is there any research being carried out in this area?

Before your operation, your surgeon or Specialist Nurse will inform you about any relevant research studies taking place, and, in particular, if any surgically-removed tissue may be stored for future study. If this is the case, you will be asked if you wish to participate and, if you agree, to sign a special form to consent to this.

All surgical procedures, even those not currently the subject of active research, are subjected to rigorous clinical audit so that we can analyse our results and compare them with those of other surgeons. In this way, we can learn how to improve our techniques and our results; this means that our patients will get the best treatment available.

Who can I contact for more help or information?

For further information on the internet, here are some useful sites to explore:
www.rcseng.ac.uk/patient_information/internet_sources
www.patient.co.uk
www.patientinformation.org.uk
www.rcoa.ac.uk (for information about anaesthetics)
www.prodigy.nhs.uk.PILs
www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk
www.besttreatments.co.uk

What should I do with this information?
Thank you for taking the trouble to read this publication. If you wish to sign it and retain a copy for your own records, please do so below.

If you would like a copy of this publication to be filed in your hospital records for future reference, please let your Urologist or Specialist Nurse know. However, if you do agree to proceed with the scheduled procedure, you will be asked to sign a separate consent form which will be filed in your hospital record. You will, if you wish, be provided with a copy of this consent form.

I have read this publication and I accept the information it provides.

Signature...............................................................       Date..........................................


How can I get information in alternative formats?
Please ask your local NHS Trust or PALS network if you require this information in other languages, large print, Braille or audio format.

Most hospitals are smoke-free. Smoking increases the severity of some urological conditions and increases the risk of post-operative complications. For advice on quitting, contact your GP or the NHS Smoking Helpline free on 0800 169 0 169

Disclaimer
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Fact File 2 • The NHS Constitution
Patients’ Rights & Responsibilities

The constitution, as a result of extensive discussions with staff and the public, sets out new rights for patients which will help improve their experience within the NHS. These new rights include:

- a right to choice and a right to information that will help them make that choice
- a right to drugs and treatments approved by NICE when it is considered clinically appropriate
- a right to certain services such as an NHS dentist and access to recommended vaccinations
- the right that any official complaint will be properly and efficiently investigated, and that they be told the outcome of the investigations
- the right to compensation and an apology if they have been harmed by poor treatment

The constitution also lists patient responsibilities, including:

- providing accurate information about their health
- taking positive action to keep themselves and their family healthy
- trying to keep appointments
- treating NHS staff and other patients with respect
- following the course of treatment that they are given
- giving feedback, both positive and negative, after treatment