

Gallbladder disease hurts. But surgery can help.

Gallbladder disease can cause pain, nausea, vomiting, fever, and other symptoms.¹ These symptoms can make normal activities difficult. Suddenly, a small organ most people never think about is making you sick and holding up your life. Gallbladder removal surgery, also called cholecystectomy, is a common and effective option.² It can help resolve your symptoms so you can get back to what you love.



What is gallbladder disease?³

The gallbladder helps digest food. It stores bile from the liver and sends it through openings called ducts. Gallbladder disease occurs when the bile ducts get blocked, usually by gallstones. This can cause pain and inflammation called cholecystitis. Sometimes, the gallbladder can't move bile even if there is no blockage. This is called biliary dyskinesia. If it's left untreated, gallbladder disease can cause inflammation, infection, and/or blockage of the bile ducts.

What is cholecystectomy?³

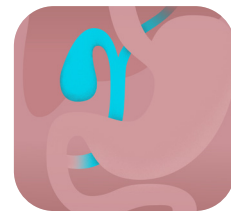
A cholecystectomy is the complete removal of the gallbladder. Once it's removed, the symptoms of gallbladder disease usually go away.

Why do doctors recommend cholecystectomy?²⁻³

Surgery is a common recommendation for gallbladder disease. This includes gallstones, gallbladder inflammation, and pancreatitis caused by gallstones. There are other options for gallstones and the problems they cause. However, gallstones tend to keep coming back. Surgery is the only permanent fix. A cholecystectomy helps people return to normal life.

Gallbladder surgery is generally considered safe and has a low risk of complications. If you have severe pain, nausea, or vomiting, your doctor may recommend surgery. It can help relieve your symptoms and prevent future episodes.

Cholecystectomy explained



During minimally invasive cholecystectomy, you are asleep. A few tiny incisions in your belly let your surgeon insert tools and cameras.



The surgeon detaches the gallbladder from an artery and duct. After removing the gallbladder, the surgeon closes the incisions.

Types of gallbladder surgery¹⁻²

A cholecystectomy can be done with open or minimally invasive surgery. With open surgery, the surgeon makes a large incision or cut in the upper right side of your abdomen. The cut is large enough for the surgeon to see the gallbladder and remove it using hand-held tools.

Minimally invasive surgery is more common. The surgeon makes a few small cuts in your abdomen to remove the gallbladder. This approach means less pain and faster recovery time. The two main types of minimally invasive surgery are laparoscopy and da Vinci surgery. In laparoscopy, the surgeon uses long hand-held tools and a laparoscopic camera. The camera provides a magnified view of the surgical area.

This brochure tells you about da Vinci surgery. Your doctor can also explain what to expect and answer your questions about da Vinci surgery.

Patient outcomes with da Vinci gallbladder surgery.

According to studies on cholecystectomy, da Vinci surgery shows potential benefits compared to open surgery including:

- ♥ **Less pain after surgery⁴**
- ✚ **Shorter hospital stays⁴⁻⁵**
- ↓ **Fewer postoperative complications⁵**



1. SAGES. Gallbladder Removal Surgery (Cholecystectomy) Patient Information from SAGES. SAGES. Published 2013. Accessed September 2025. <https://www.sages.org/publications/patient-information/patient-information-for-laparoscopic-gallbladder-removal-cholecystectomy-from-sages/>
2. Mayo Clinic. Cholecystectomy. MayoClinic.org. Published October 3, 2023. Accessed September 2025. <https://www.mayoclinic.org/tests-procedures/cholecystectomy/about/pac-20384818>
3. Cleveland Clinic. Gallbladder Disease: Symptoms, Treatment & What It Is. Cleveland Clinic. Published May 3, 2022. Accessed September 2025. <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/22976-gallbladder-disease>

4. Byun Y, Choi YJ, Kang JS, et al. Early outcomes of robotic extended cholecystectomy for the treatment of gallbladder cancer. *J Hepatobiliary Pancreat Sci.* 2020;27(6):324-330. doi:10.1002/jhbp.717 <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jhbp.717>
5. Campbell S, Lee SH, Liu Y, Wren SM. A retrospective study of laparoscopic, robotic-assisted, and open emergent/urgent cholecystectomy based on the PINC AI Healthcare Database 2017-2020. *World J Emerg Surg.* 2023;18(1):55. doi:10.1186/s13017-023-00521-8 <https://wjes.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13017-023-00521-8>



Learn more about da Vinci gallbladder surgery.

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What is da Vinci surgery?

Surgeons have used da Vinci systems to perform robotic-assisted surgery for over 25 years. Da Vinci surgery is the most common way surgeons perform many operations, including lung and prostate surgeries.⁶ People usually spend less time in the hospital after da Vinci surgery compared to open surgery, which means patients can get back to what matters most.⁷

Your surgeon is with you in the operating room, seated at a console. From the console, your surgeon controls the instruments to perform your surgery.

Your surgeon performs the surgery, not a robot.

While da Vinci surgery is called robotic-assisted surgery, robots don't perform surgery. Your surgeon does. The da Vinci system's advanced instruments and technology give your surgeon tools to use during surgery.

Through a 3D high-definition camera, your surgeon can see your anatomy better than with the human eye alone.

Your surgeon uses tiny, wristed instruments that move in more ways than the human hand.

Why surgeons choose da Vinci systems for their surgeries.



Surgeons can perform complex surgeries through a few small incisions.



Surgeons have a 10x magnified 3D view of where they're operating and the instruments they're using.



Surgeons are in control. Their hands move the tiny instruments in real time.



Da Vinci systems allow your surgeon to operate with smooth precision.

Important safety information

Patients should talk to their doctor to decide if surgery with a da Vinci system is right for them. Patients and doctors should review all available information on nonsurgical and surgical options and associated risks in order to make an informed decision.

Serious complications may occur in any surgery, including da Vinci surgery, up to and including death. Serious risks include, but are not limited to, injury to tissues and organs and conversion to other surgical techniques which could result in a longer operative time and/or increased complications. For summary of the risks associated with surgery refer to www.intuitive.com/safety.

For important safety information, including surgical risks and considerations, please refer to intuitive.com/safety.

Individuals' outcomes may depend on a number of factors—including but not limited to—patient characteristics, disease characteristics, and/or surgeon experience.



Get back to what you love.

Ask your doctor about gallbladder surgery with da Vinci.

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6. Data on file at Intuitive. August 2024

7. Ricciardi R, Seshadri-Kreaden U, Yankovsky A, et al. The COMPARE Study: Comparing Perioperative Outcomes of Oncologic Minimally Invasive Laparoscopic, da Vinci Robotic, and Open Procedures: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of the Evidence. *Ann Surg.* 2025;281(5):748-763. doi:10.1097/SLA.0000000000006572