



Louis A.  
Weiss  
Memorial  
Hospital

Laparoscopic, or minimally invasive, surgery offers patients many benefits that include minimal pain after surgery and a much faster recovery than with conventional surgery.

## Laparoscopic Surgery Enhances Patient Care

**M**any surgical procedures that once required large incisions and long hospital stays are now performed through minimally invasive techniques that require only tiny incisions. Minimally invasive, or laparoscopic, surgery offers patients many benefits, which include minimal pain after surgery, a much faster recovery than with conventional surgery, drastically reduced hospitalization — often to only one to two days — and great cosmetic results.

The University of Chicago Hospitals Minimally Invasive Surgery Center at Louis A. Weiss Memorial Hospital is at the forefront of laparoscopic surgery. Surgeons here are pioneers in advancing minimally invasive diagnostic and surgical procedures. For example, Constantine Frantzides, MD, Director of the Minimally Invasive Surgery Center, has pioneered eight different, new laparoscopic procedures over the last few years, many of which are now performed all over the world.



### Benefits of Minimally Invasive Surgery

Surgeons perform minimally invasive surgery with the aid of a viewing scope that enters the body through tiny incisions. The laparoscope provides surgeons with a much more detailed view of the operative site for more precise work. Surgeons manipulate specially designed surgical instruments that enter the body through small, hollow tubes, and then view the organ being removed or repaired on a monitor. Patients recover faster with minimally invasive surgery than with conventional surgery because of the small incisions. Patients experience significantly less pain than with open surgery, which typically requires large incisions through skin and muscle tissue. As a result, there is less need for post-surgical pain medication, less scarring, and a quicker recovery and faster return to normal activities.

Specialists from general surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, plastics, urology, ophthalmology, orthopaedics, thoracic, and vascular surgery all work together to offer a full spectrum of minimally invasive surgeries from gallbladder and hernia procedures to surgery of the spine, stomach, spleen, colon, and other organs. These specialists also collaborate to advance the use of laparoscopic technology to other procedures that currently require traditional open surgery.

### The Importance of an Experienced Team

Minimally invasive surgery requires dramatically different surgical skills than those used with more traditional surgery. Unlike open surgery, laparoscopic surgeons watch the movements of the surgical instruments on a monitor. As a result, extensive experience with the manipulation of laparoscopic equipment and the familiarity of performing a detailed procedure while viewing it on a television monitor is required.

The Minimally Invasive Surgery Center's surgical team has extensive experience performing laparoscopic surgeries. These physicians are pioneers in advancing the application of laparoscopic surgery to conditions that currently require open surgery. Constantine Frantzides,

MD, Director of the Minimally Invasive Surgery Center, is recognized worldwide as a leader in the field of minimally invasive surgery.

### Laparoscopic Procedures Performed at Weiss Hospital

Minimally invasive surgical specialists at Weiss Memorial Hospital perform a variety of laparoscopic procedures, including:

- Cholecystectomy (*removal of gallbladder and treatment of gall stones*)
- Appendectomy (*removal of appendix*)
- Herniorrhaphy (*hernia surgery*)
- Highly Selective Vagotomy (*treatment of duodenal ulcers*)
- Nissen Fundoplication (*treatment of chronic heartburn, hiatal hernia repair*)
- Colectomy (*colon surgery: treatment of colon cancer, diverticular disease, and inflammatory bowel disease*)
- Diagnostic Laparoscopy (*diagnosis of injury or disease*)
- Pseudocystojejunostomy (*treatment of pancreatic pseudocysts*)
- Gastrojejunostomy (*repair of gastric outlet obstruction*)
- Rectopexy (*repair of rectal prolapse*)
- Splenectomy (*removal of spleen*)
- Spinal Fusion (*treatment of spinal ailments, back pain*)
- Adrenalectomy (*removal of adrenal gland*)
- Nephrectomy (*removal of kidney*)
- Esophageal myotomy (*treatment of achalasia*)

Although laparoscopic surgery is rapidly becoming a viable alternative to traditional open surgery for many conditions, it may not be appropriate for everyone. There are times when the condition of the patient or the existence of other disorders makes open surgery a better choice. All patients are screened preoperatively to determine whether they are candidates for the minimally invasive or laparoscopic approach.

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### For an appointment or more information

For a consultation or second opinion with one of our minimally invasive surgical specialists, contact your primary care physician or call toll-free 1-888-UCH-0200.