

## **LAPAROSCOPIC COLON SURGERY IN COMMUNITY PRACTICE**

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**Introduction:** The benefits of laparoscopic colon surgery have been demonstrated in the literature. More recently, the oncological outcomes have been shown to be similar in the laparoscopic group when compared to the open colon surgery for colon cancer. However, most of the published literatures are from university/academic institutions. There is limited (if any) literature on laparoscopic colon surgery from a community hospital.

**Methods:** The author has conducted a retrospective chart review of the laparoscopic colon surgery from a single general surgeon's practice in a community hospital in Victoria, B.C. There were 53 laparoscopic colon cases performed from Oct. 27, 2003 to May 21, 2006. The laparoscopic approach was conducted on benign, and curative colon cancer cases. Primary outcome measures were length of OR times, pathological results, length of hospital stay, and complication rates.

**Results:** Of the 53 laparoscopic cases, there were 9 converted to open cases (17% conversion rate). There was zero peri-operative mortality, and zero anastomotic leak. The average length of OR time was 195 minutes (range: 96-295 min.). The median length of hospital stay was 4 days (range: 3-17 days). There were 32 laparoscopic cases for colon cancer. The resection margins were all negative, and the mean number of lymph nodes in resected specimen was 16(range: 5-37). The overall complication rate was 19%.

**Conclusions:** This study shows that the laparoscopic colon surgery is technically feasible in a community practice. The results from this study are similar to the published literature from university/academic institutions. The resection margins, and lymph nodes harvested in the laparoscopic group have been shown to be acceptable alternative to open surgery for colon cancer.