

Gynae Fast Track Clinic
Tuesday to Friday
01935 384 454
07557 313 816

Colposcopy team
Monday to Thursday
01935 384 622

Jasmine Ward
Weekends and evenings
01935 384 385

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in another format, eg.
large print or a different
language, please ask a
member of staff.**

Yeovil District Hospital
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Having a laparoscopy as a day case

Gynaecology department

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 **Yeovil Hospital**
Healthcare

Laparoscopy (as a day case)

The term laparoscopy comes from the Greek 'laparo' meaning abdomen and 'scopy' to look for. Therefore, laparoscopy means to look in the abdomen. It is used to investigate and diagnose abnormalities.

The operation

This is performed under a general anaesthetic.

A small cut is made near your umbilicus (tummy button) and another just above the pubic hair. The laparoscope is inserted and your abdomen is gently inflated to allow the doctor to see your ovaries, tubes and outside your womb.

Complications

There is a one per cent risk of damaging the bowel or bladder when inserting the laparoscope and an open operation may be necessary to either complete the operation or repair the damage.

Obviously, a longer period of hospital stay is required if there are complications.

After the operation

Following the operation, you may be aware of some discomfort in your abdomen, shoulders and under your ribs for a few days. This is quite normal. Pain relief medication such as paracetamol should help. If you are still having pain, you could try Ibuprofen.

Your abdomen may feel and look bloated - this is to be expected and will return to normal in a few days. There will be two plasters on your abdomen where the small cuts were made. You will be allowed a drink fairly soon after being brought back to the Day Ward.

Discharge advice

Most women go home the same day

- The small plasters on your abdomen can be removed the day after your operation. You may bath or shower. Carefully dry the areas. **Do not recover them.**
- If you have stitches to be removed, you will be advised by the nursing staff to make an appointment with the practice nurse at your GP's surgery for (approximately) five days after your operation. Your nurse will give you a letter to take with you.
- You may experience some slight vaginal bleeding. This should settle after a few days. Use sanitary pads, not tampons, until the bleeding stops.
- Once the general tiredness and discomfort wears off, you may return to work (usually in the next 2-3 days).