

UG07 Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy (part 1)

Choosing if you want to have your gallbladder out



This booklet



The doctor has given you this booklet because you have **gallstones**.

Gallstones are stones that some people get in part of their body called the **gallbladder**.



Gallstones can give you

- bad pain in your belly
- yellow eyes and skin.



You can have an operation to take the gallbladder and gallstones out.



Your body can work just as well without a gallbladder.



It is your choice

You don't have to have the operation.

You can say **yes** or **no**.



When you have read this booklet speak to your doctor. They can help you decide what to do.

About the operation



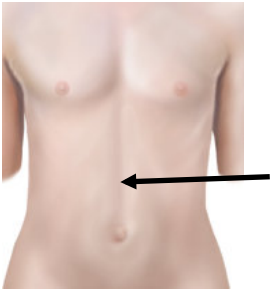
The operation takes about **1 hour**.



You will be put to sleep before you have the operation.

This means you won't feel anything when you are in the operation.

About the operation

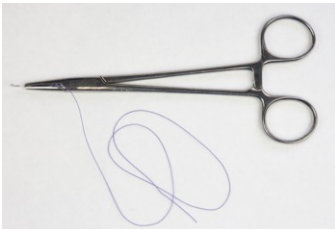


When you are asleep the doctor will make some small cuts in your belly.



The doctor will take out your gallbladder with the gallstones inside.

If the doctor can't get the gallbladder out of the small holes then they will make a bigger cut.



When the gallbladder is out the doctor will sew up the cuts.



After the operation the doctor may give you medicine or injections to help stop the pain.



You should be able to go home the next day or a bit later if the doctor says so.



If you say YES to the operation

The operation should stop the pain coming back.

The operation is usually safe but there is a small chance that something could go wrong.



Your doctor can tell you more about any risks.

If you say NO to the operation



If you have had bad pain then it will probably keep coming back.

You could have bigger health problems in the future if you do not have the operation.



There are some drugs that can help to get rid of gallstones.



But these drugs can make you feel very unwell and the gallstones usually come back.



Eating low fat food can help with the pain but it does not make the gallstones go away.



The doctor can tell you more about these things.

Making a decision



It may help to talk to a friend or someone in your family.



Talk to your doctor if you have any questions.