

Advancing Cancer Surgery through Smaller Scars with Less Pain

The word 'cancer' invokes fear and anxiety in most people.

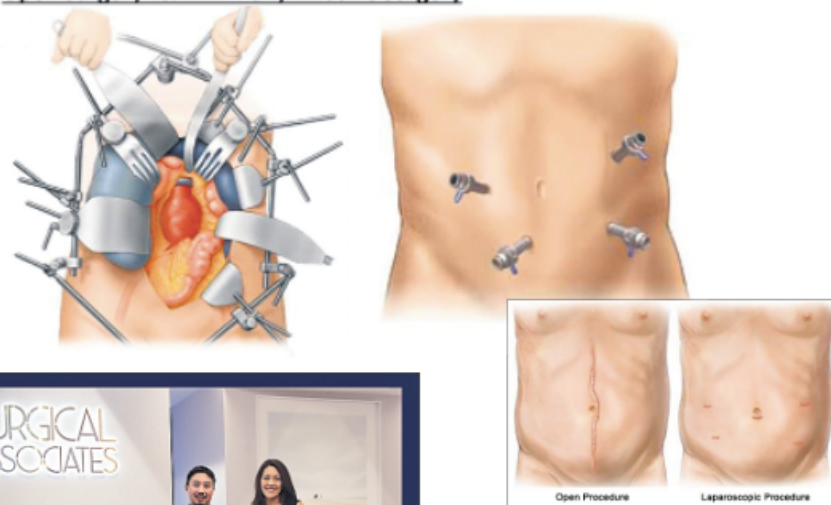
Cancer treatment is associated with significant pain and suffering for the patient, part of which may be contributed by pain from large wounds after surgery.

Although open surgery with large wounds was the standard of care for cancer treatment for many years, minimally invasive or keyhole surgery for most cancers has become widely accepted in recent years, according to Dr. Tan Wah Siew and Dr. Lee Ser Yee of Surgical Associates.

Less is more

Minimally invasive surgery refers to surgery performed using small incisions (cuts). This helps reduce the physical stress on patients and time needed for recovery from surgery. Laparoscopic and robotic approaches are two forms of minimally invasive surgery. Laparoscopy uses long thin instruments and tiny cameras to perform the surgery. Robotic surgery has similar components to laparoscopic surgery but there is, in addition, a magnified 3-dimensional view of the surgical site which provides better views and helps the surgeon operate with improved precision and dexterity.

Open Surgery vs. Minimally Invasive Surgery



" Minimally invasive surgery is technically demanding with a steep learning curve, but to us, the benefits it offers - faster recovery and less pain for our patients - has made it a worthwhile pursuit for us "

- Dr Lee Ser Yee & Dr Tan Wah Siew

Services

General Surgery

- Cancer Screening - Endoscopy & Colonoscopy
- Acute Appendicitis & Abdominal Pain
- Hernias
- Benign Skin Lumps and Cysts
- Neuroendocrine and Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumours (GIST)

Liver, Pancreas & Gallbladder

- Liver Cancer, Tumours & Cysts
- Pancreatic Cancer, Tumours & Cyst
- Gallstones, Gallbladder & Bile Duct Diseases
- Spleen Tumour and Diseases
- Secondary Tumours to the Liver
- Liver Transplant

Colon & Rectum

- Colorectal Cancer & Polyps
- Haemorrhoids (Piles)
- Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis
- Diverticular Disease
- Anal Fistulas and Anal Fissures
- Constipation and Faecal Incontinence

Advanced Laparoscopic & Robotic Surgery

Minimally invasive approaches to cancer surgery have recently been championed because of benefits such as less time spent in hospital, less pain, improved cosmesis and evidence of good long-term cancer survival.

Cancer outcomes are the top priority

The principles of cancer surgery require removal of the tumour and a rim of surrounding normal tissue, with its lymphatic drainage.

A good surgical technique to ensure good clearance without spillage of cancer cells is critical to decrease the risk of cancer recurrence.

Research has addressed initial reservations about the safety and outcomes after minimally invasive surgery in cancer treatment.

Many studies have now shown equivalent or superior outcomes with minimally invasive cancer surgery e.g. in colorectal cancer and liver cancer.

Optimal use of technology

Surgeons have harnessed advances in technology, including high resolution cameras, better engineered instruments and advanced robotic platforms to improve surgical techniques and outcomes. Coupled with subspecialisation and increasing surgeon experience, cancer patients can now benefit from the advantages of minimally invasive surgery.

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