C. Risks of a nephrectomy

There are risks and complications with this procedure. They include but are not limited to the following.

**General risks:**
- Infection can occur, requiring antibiotics and further treatment.
- Bleeding could occur and may require a return to the operating room. Bleeding is more common if you have been taking blood thinning drugs such as Warfarin, Aspirin, Clopidogrel (Plavix or Iscover) or Dipyridamole (Persantin or Asasantin).
- Small areas of the lung can collapse, increasing the risk of chest infection. This may need antibiotics and physiotherapy.
- Increased risk in obese people of wound infection, chest infection, heart and lung complications, and thrombosis.
- Heart attack or stroke could occur due to the strain on the heart.
- Blood clot in the leg (DVT) causing pain and swelling. In rare cases part of the clot may break off and go to the lungs.
- Death as a result of this procedure is possible.

**Specific risks:**
- The kidney function may fail with a need to provide artificial kidney support.

D. Significant risks and procedure options

(Doctor to document in space provided. Continue in Medical Record if necessary.)

- Major bleeding from the large renal vessels. This may require further surgery and possible blood transfusion.
- If part of the kidney is removed, urine may leak from the remaining kidney section. This may need further surgery.
- Removal of a rib is sometimes necessary during the surgery. This may cause numbness or chest complications.
- Especially in a male, there may be difficulty in passing urine and a tube may need to be put into the bladder to drain the urine. This is usually temporary until the bladder recovers.
- Damage to the bowel, which may cause leakage of bowel fluid. This may need further surgery.
- The bowel may be paralysed or blocked after surgery. This may cause a build up of fluid in the bowel with bloating and vomiting. This may need further treatment.
- In some people, healing of the wound may be abnormal and the wound can be thickened and red and the wound may be painful.
- A weakness in the wound resulting in the wound bursting in the short term. A hernia may develop in the long term requiring further surgery.
- Adhesions (bands of scar tissue) may form and cause a bowel blockage. This can be a short term, or a long-term complication and may need further surgery.

E. Risks of not having this procedure

(Doctor to document in space provided. Continue in Medical Record if necessary.)

F. Anaesthetic

This procedure may require an anaesthetic. (Doctor to document type of anaesthetic discussed)
G. Patient consent

I acknowledge that the doctor has explained:

- my medical condition and the proposed procedure, including additional treatment if the doctor finds something unexpected. I understand the risks, including the risks that are specific to me.
- the anaesthetic required for this procedure. I understand the risks, including the risks that are specific to me.
- other relevant procedure/treatment options and their associated risks.
- my prognosis and the risks of not having the procedure.
- that no guarantee has been made that the procedure will improve my condition even though it has been carried out with due professional care.
- the procedure may include a blood transfusion.
- tissues and blood may be removed and could be used for diagnosis or management of my condition, stored and disposed of sensitively by the hospital.
- if immediate life-threatening events happen during the procedure, they will be treated based on my discussions with the doctor or my Acute Resuscitation Plan.
- a doctor other than the Consultant may conduct the procedure. I understand this could be a doctor undergoing further training.

I have been given the following Patient Information Sheet/s:

- [ ] About Your Anaesthetic
- [ ] Nephrectomy
- [ ] Blood & Blood Products Transfusion

- I was able to ask questions and raise concerns with the doctor about my condition, the proposed procedure and its risks, and my treatment options. My questions and concerns have been discussed and answered to my satisfaction.
- I understand I have the right to change my mind at any time, including after I have signed this form but, preferably following a discussion with my doctor.
- I understand that image/s or video footage may be recorded as part of and during my procedure and that these image/s or video/s will assist the doctor to provide appropriate treatment.

On the basis of the above statements,
1. **What do I need to know about this procedure?**

A nephrectomy involves removal of a kidney or part of a kidney. The other kidney will take over the function of the removed kidney.

2. **My anaesthetic**

   This procedure will require an anaesthetic. See [About Your Anaesthetic information sheet](#) for information about the anaesthetic and the risks involved. If you have any concerns, discuss these with your doctor. *If you have not been given an information sheet, please ask for one.*

3. **What are the risks of this specific procedure?**

   There are risks and complications with this procedure. They include but are not limited to the following.

   **General risks:**
   - Infection can occur, requiring antibiotics and further treatment.
   - Bleeding could occur and may require a return to the operating room. Bleeding is more common if you have been taking blood thinning drugs such as Warfarin, Asprin, Clopidogrel (Plavix or Iscover) or Dipyridamole (Persantin or Asasantin).
   - Small areas of the lung can collapse, increasing the risk of chest infection. This may need antibiotics and physiotherapy.
   - Increased risk in obese people of wound infection, chest infection, heart and lung complications, and thrombosis.
   - Heart attack or stroke could occur due to the strain on the heart.
   - Blood clot in the leg (DVT) causing pain and swelling. In rare cases part of the clot may break off and go to the lungs.
   - Death as a result of this procedure is possible.

   **Specific risks:**
   - The kidney function may fail with a need to provide artificial kidney support.
   - Major bleeding from the large renal vessels. This may require further surgery and possible blood transfusion.
   - If part of the kidney is removed, urine may leak from the remaining kidney section. This may need further surgery.
   - Removal of a rib is sometimes necessary during the surgery. This may cause numbness or chest complications.
   - Especially in a male, there may be difficulty in passing urine and a tube may need to be put into the bladder to drain the urine. This is usually temporary until the bladder recovers.
   - Damage to the bowel, which may cause leakage of bowel fluid. This may need further surgery.
   - The bowel may be paralysed or blocked after surgery. This may cause a build up of fluid in the bowel with bloating and vomiting. This may need further treatment.
   - In some people, healing of the wound may be abnormal and the wound can be thickened and red and the wound may be painful.
   - A weakness in the wound resulting in the wound bursting in the short term. A hernia may develop in the long term requiring further surgery.
   - Adhesions (bands of scar tissue) may form and cause a bowel blockage. This can be a short term or a long-term complication and may need further surgery.

**Notes to talk to my doctor about:**

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The State of Queensland (Queensland Health), 2011