Laparotomy

A. Interpreter / cultural needs
An Interpreter Service is required? Yes ☐ No ☐
If Yes, is a qualified Interpreter present? Yes ☐ No ☐
A Cultural Support Person is required? Yes ☐ No ☐
If Yes, is a Cultural Support Person present? Yes ☐ No ☐

B. Condition and treatment
The doctor has explained that you have the following condition: (Doctor to document in patient’s own words)

This condition requires the following procedure. (Doctor to document - include site and/or side where relevant to the procedure)

The following will be performed:
Surgical examination of the inside of the abdomen and the internal organs for any abnormality. This is done through a 15-30cm cut into the abdomen, depending on the size of the abdomen.

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

General risks:
• 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:
• Deep bleeding in the abdomen. This may need fluid replacement, blood transfusion or further surgery. This may mean a longer stay in hospital and longer recovery time.
• Damage to other organs, such as bladder or bowel, which may need further surgery. This may mean a longer stay in hospital and longer recovery time.
• Infections such as pus in the abdomen. This may need surgical drainage and antibiotics.

D. Significant risks and procedure options
(Doctor to document in space provided. Continue in Medical Record if necessary.)

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/specialist may conduct/assist with the clinically appropriate procedure/treatment/investigation/examination. I understand this could be a doctor undergoing further training. I understand that all surgical trainees are supervised according to relevant professional guidelines.

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.

**Student examination/procedure for educational purposes**

For the purpose of undertaking professional training, a student/s may observe the medical examination/s or procedure/s and may also, subject to patient consent, perform an examination/s or assist in performing the procedure/s on a patient while the patient is under anaesthetic. This is for education purposes only. A student/s who undertakes an examination/s or assists in performing the procedure/s will be under the supervision of the treating doctor, in accordance with the relevant professional guidelines.

For the purposes of education I consent to a student/s undergoing training to:

- observe examination/s or procedure/s  

- assist and/or perform examination/s or procedure/s

*Student - this may include medical, nursing, midwifery, allied health or ambulance students.*

**Patients who lack capacity to provide consent**

Consent must be obtained from a substitute decision maker/s in the order below.

Does the patient have an Advance Health Directive (AHD)?

- Yes
- No

**Location of the original or certified copy of the AHD:**

**Name of Substitute Decision Maker/s:**

**Signature:**

**Relationship to patient:**

**Date:**

**PH No:**

**Source of decision making authority (tick one):**

- Tribunal-appointed Guardian
- Attorney/s for health matters under Enduring Power of Attorney or AHD
- Statutory Health Attorney
- If none of these, the Adult Guardian has provided consent. Ph 1300 QLD OAG (753 624)

**H. Doctor / delegate statement**

I have explained to the patient all the above points under the Patient Consent section (G) and I am of the opinion that the patient/substitute decision-maker has understood the information.

**Name of Doctor/delegate:**

**Designation:**

**Signature:**

**Date:**

**I. Interpreter’s statement**

I have given a sight translation in

*(state the patient’s language here)* of the consent form and assisted in the provision of any verbal and written information given to the patient/parent or guardian/substitute decision-maker by the doctor.

**Name of Interpreter:**

**Signature:**

**Date:**
1. What do I need to know about this procedure?

A laparotomy is a surgical examination of the inside of the abdomen and the internal organs for any abnormality. This is done through a 15-30cm cut into the abdomen, depending on the size of the abdomen.

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:

- 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:

- Deep bleeding in the abdomen. This may need fluid replacement, blood transfusion or further surgery. This may mean a longer stay in hospital and longer recovery time.
- Damage to other organs, such as bladder or bowel, which may need further surgery. This may mean a longer stay in hospital and longer recovery time.
- Infections such as pus in the abdomen. This may need surgical drainage and antibiotics.
- Bowel blockage after the operation. This may be temporary or in the longer term. Treatment may be a drip to give fluids into the vein and no food or fluids by mouth. If it doesn’t get better, bowel surgery may be necessary which may include a colostomy. This can be temporary or permanent.
- Adhesions (bands of scar tissue) which can cause bowel obstruction. This can be a short term or long term complication and may need further surgery.
- The wound may not heal normally. The scar can be thickened and red and may be painful. This is permanent and can be disfiguring.
- Poor wound healing. The wound may burst open which may require long term wound care with dressings and antibiotics, or a hernia i.e. rupture can form in the long term. This may need repair by further surgery.
- Increased risk in smokers of wound and chest infections, heart and lung complications and thrombosis.
- Very low possibility of a fistula (a connecting passage between one area and another) developing.
- There is a possibility that the symptoms/pain you have been experiencing and the reason for this operation, may not resolve or worsen as a complication of the procedure.
- The cause of pain/other symptoms sometimes cannot be found, if you are having an exploratory operation.

4. Who will be performing the procedure?

A doctor other than the consultant/specialist may conduct/assist with the clinically appropriate procedure/treatment/investigation/examination.

I understand this could be a doctor undergoing further training, and that all trainees are supervised according to relevant professional guidelines.

If you have any concerns about which doctor/clinician will be performing the procedure, please discuss with the doctor/clinician.

For the purpose of undertaking professional training in this teaching hospital, a student/s may observe the medical examination/s or procedure/s. Subject to your consent, a student/s may perform an examination/s or assist in performing the procedure/s while you are under anaesthetic. This is for education purposes only. A student/s who undertakes an examination/s or assists in performing the procedure/s will be under the supervision of the treating doctor, in accordance with relevant professional guidelines.

If you choose not to consent, it will not adversely affect your access, outcome or rights to medical treatment in any way. You are under no obligation to consent to an examination/s or a procedure/s being undertaken by a student/s for education purposes.

Notes to talk to my doctor about:

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