

MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY · UMIBA

Laparoscopic living-donor nephrectomy

Laparoscopic living-donor nephrectomy is a surgical alternative to open surgery, meant to raise the rate of living donations. At centers where laparoscopic surgery has developed, it has become the technique of choice for living-donor kidney transplantation.(1) In reviews of its safety and effectiveness, laparoscopic living-donor nephrectomy yields similar rates of transplanted-kidney function, rejection, urological complications, and long-term survival.(2)(3)(4)(5) The measures related to painkiller needs, pain, hospital stay, and time to return to work, however, are significantly lower with a laparoscopic procedure. As for donor safety, the surgery must offer a neutral passage through the institution where the transplant takes place, that is, without adding mortality or harm to the donor's health; the historical mortality rate is 0.003% and has not changed with the introduction of laparoscopic donor nephrectomy.(6)(7) That is why, at many centers, as already noted, the number of living kidney donations has risen by a significant percentage. In experienced hands this procedure is carried out without added risk to donor safety or to transplanted-kidney function, and it is now regarded as a reference treatment. For the reasons above, the international societies grant a Grade A recommendation to laparoscopic nephrectomy, since it yields the same rates of urological complications, graft function, and kidney survival as open nephrectomy, with lower postsurgical morbidity, a shorter recovery, and a better cosmetic result.(8)

ADVANTAGES OF THE TECHNIQUE

Clinical rationale

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