

Colon Surgery (Colectomy)

Indications for Surgery

1. Colon cancer
2. Large polyp
3. Recurrent diverticulitis
4. Stricture
5. Colonic inertia/severe chronic constipation

Operation

1. Open
2. Laparoscopic

Alternatives

1. Observation/Do nothing-can lead to obstruction
2. Endoscopic removal-can result in incomplete removal or perforation
3. Treat with antibiotics-can develop perforation, abscess, etc.
4. Endoscopic dilation-can result in perforation, can recur
5. Medical therapy

Complications & Risks

General

1. Blood clots (DVT/PE)
2. Pneumonia
3. Heart attack
4. Stroke
5. Bleeding
6. Infection

Specific

1. Anastomotic leak
2. Colostomy
3. Injury to ureter or other organs
4. Adhesions, bowel obstructions
5. Hernia

Post Op Expectations

1. Hospitalized 3-8 days
2. Bowel movements may be different
3. No heavy lifting 4-6 weeks

