

Extended Right Hemicolectomy

Understanding The Procedure

An extended right hemicolectomy is an operation to remove the right side of your colon. This procedure is commonly performed to treat colon cancer or certain non-cancerous conditions such as Crohn's disease. In most cases, the operation can be carried out using a laparoscopic (keyhole) technique, which offers a faster recovery time compared to open surgery.

What Does The Operation Involve?

Your surgeon may perform the procedure using an open or laparoscopic approach. During the operation:

- The right side of your colon, some or all of the transverse colon, and the last part of your small intestine are removed
- The blood vessels and lymph nodes supplying this part of the bowel are also removed
- The remaining colon is joined to the small intestine using either sutures or special staples
- In most cases, a stoma (colostomy or ileostomy) is not required. If a stoma is necessary, your surgeon will discuss this with you before the operation
- The procedure typically involves three or four small incisions, no larger than 1cm
- The operation usually takes around two and a half hours

After the bowel is removed, it is sent to the pathology department for analysis. You should receive the results within two weeks.

What Are The Risks?

As with any major surgery, an extended right hemicolectomy carries some risks. Your medical team will assess your heart, lung, and overall health before surgery to reduce potential complications. You will also be given compression stockings and small injections to prevent blood clots.

Possible Complications Include:

- **Bleeding** – While bleeding is rare, a blood transfusion is available if necessary
- **Wound infections** – These can occur but are usually mild and treatable with antibiotics
- **Anastomotic leak** – In rare cases, the join between the small intestine and remaining colon may leak. If this happens, treatment with antibiotics, a drain, or further surgery may be needed. Patients with Crohn's disease or those taking steroids have a slightly higher risk
- **Ileus (temporary bowel paralysis)** – This occurs when the bowel takes longer than usual to start working again. You may experience bloating and vomiting, which can be managed with intravenous fluids and a nasogastric tube if necessary
- **Bowel obstruction** – Scar tissue or adhesions may cause a blockage, leading to abdominal pain, bloating, and vomiting. Most cases resolve without surgery, but in rare cases, another operation is needed
- **Conversion to open surgery** – If keyhole surgery is not possible, your surgeon may need to make a larger incision to complete the procedure safely

What Happens After The Operation?

After your surgery, you will have:

- An **intravenous drip** for fluids, usually removed within 24 hours once you are drinking normally
- A **urinary catheter** to drain your bladder, typically removed after 24 hours
- Occasionally, a **small abdominal drain** may be used and removed after a few days
- **Pain relief**, often through an epidural or patient-controlled analgesia, to keep you comfortable

You will be encouraged to eat and drink as soon as you feel ready, usually the same day. Early mobilisation is important, so you will be encouraged to get out of bed and move around as soon as possible.

Recovery And Follow-Up

- Hospital stay is typically 2-5 days for keyhole surgery and 5-7 days for open surgery, though this varies between patients
- Once discharged, you should remain mobile but avoid heavy lifting or intense physical activity for around six weeks
- Most patients can resume driving after about two weeks, although recovery times may be longer after open surgery
- A follow-up consultation is usually scheduled two weeks after surgery, but you can be seen sooner if necessary

Why Choose The Midlands Bowel Clinic?

- **Expert care** – Our highly experienced colorectal surgeons use the latest minimally invasive techniques to ensure optimal patient outcomes
- **Patient-centred approach** – We tailor treatment plans to meet your individual needs, prioritising comfort, safety, and recovery
- **State-of-the-art facilities** – Our clinic is equipped with advanced technology to support precision surgery and effective post-operative care
- **Comprehensive support** – From initial consultation to full recovery, our dedicated team provides guidance and follow-up care at every step
- **Trusted reputation** – We are recognised for excellence in colorectal surgery and are committed to delivering the highest standard of care

Contact Us

For more information or to book a consultation at Midlands Bowel Clinic, please get in touch. Our team is here to support you through every stage of your treatment and recovery.