

## Laporoscopic Surgery

Since the early 90s, laparoscopy has revolutionized the approach to many conditions previously requiring open surgery. The laparoscope is a long, thin camera roughly the diameter of a pen measuring approximately a foot or so in length. This fiberoptic camera allows access to the abdomen as well as the chest. Once visualization of the abdomen is completed, procedures that can be performed laparoscopically include cholecystectomy (gallbladder removal), abdominal wall hernia repair, antireflux procedures (GERD procedures), splenectomy, bowel resection, colon resection and other procedures.

While laparoscopic surgery often offers an apparently less invasive approach to many of these conditions with a somewhat shorter hospital stay, it should be emphasized that these surgeries are still major surgeries and that in no way should these be considered minor surgeries which could be performed by the non-surgeon.