Living Kidney Donation

ABOUT THE SURGERY

University Health System
Proudly partnering with UT Health San Antonio
Laparoscopic nephrectomy is the method used most often at our center. This procedure is performed through 1 small 3-4” midline incision, 2 small 1/4” abdominal incisions, called “ports.” The surgeon inserts laparoscopic instruments into these smaller incisions to isolate and remove the kidney. The kidney is removed through the larger incision.

The surgery is three to six hours long. Most living donors spend 2 days in the hospital, go home and recover for 4-6 weeks.
LAPAROSCOPIC NEPHRECTOMY

Laparoscopic ports .25 inch

Laparoscopic kidney removal site 3.5 inch
Donors may experience:

- nausea
- bloating
- constipation (laxatives will be prescribed)
- pain associated with the surgery (medication will be prescribed for pain control)
There are risks and possible complications to any surgery, but we will never let you donate if the procedure is not safe for you!

Rare risks include:

- Bleeding
- Hernias or wound infections
- Breathing problems, pneumonia
- Blood clotting
- Heart attack
- Stroke
- Renal failure (estimated at 0.2% to 0.3% risk of occurring)
- Death (mortality rate for living donors post donation is estimated to be .03% or 3/10,000)
Our transplant survival rates have consistently met or exceeded national expectations. You may visit the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients for more information at www.srtr.org.

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