

# Facing Surgery for Colorectal Cancer?

Learn about minimally invasive *da Vinci*® Surgery

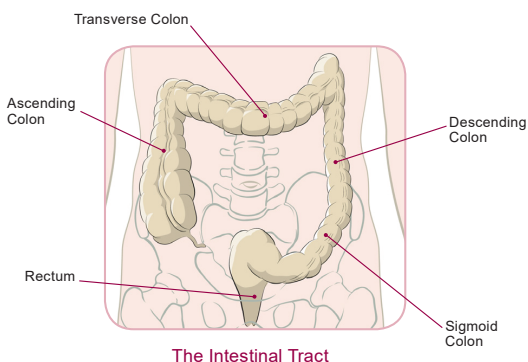
## The Condition:

### Colorectal Cancer

The colon and rectum are part of your large intestine. Their main function is to pass solid waste from your body. Colorectal cancer usually starts in the glands of the colon or rectum lining. Almost all cases of colorectal cancer begin as non-cancerous (benign) polyps that slowly develop into cancer. Like many cancers, colorectal cancer can spread to lymph nodes or other organs.

Colorectal cancer symptoms may include: blood in your stool, changes in bowel habits, pelvic pain, narrow stools, and unexplained weight loss.

Colorectal cancer affects nearly 1.3 million people worldwide each year and is the fourth most common cause of cancer death. Colorectal cancer is more common in men, people over age 60, and in developed countries.



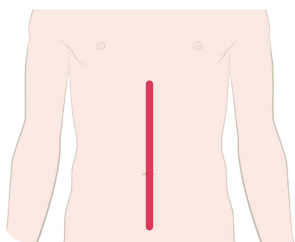
# The Surgery:

## Colorectal Surgery

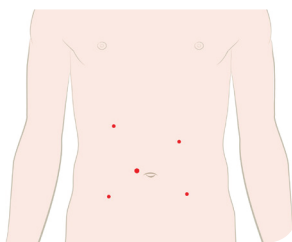
If you are facing colon cancer, your doctor may recommend a colectomy. During a colectomy, part or all of your colon will be removed, depending on the extent of the cancer. For patients diagnosed with rectal cancer, surgeons typically perform a low anterior resection (LAR) to connect the rectum to the colon after removing the cancer. If the cancer is too close to the anus, your surgeon may need to remove your rectum, anus and part of your sigmoid colon. This is known as an abdominoperineal resection or APR.

Colorectal procedures are often performed using traditional open surgery, meaning a large open incision is made from your pubic bone to just below your breastbone. The incision must be large enough for your surgeon to fit his or her hands and surgical instruments inside your body. Open surgery allows doctors to see and touch your organs as they operate.

Laparoscopic surgery is a minimally invasive alternative to open surgery. With laparoscopy, your surgeon operates through a few small incisions using special instruments, including a tiny camera. The camera sends images to a video monitor in the operating room to guide doctors during the operation. There is another minimally invasive surgical option for patients facing colorectal surgery: state-of-the-art *da Vinci* Surgery.



Open Surgery  
Incision



*da Vinci* Surgery/  
Laparoscopy Incisions

# da Vinci Surgery :

## A Minimally Invasive Surgical Option

Using the *da Vinci* System, your surgeon makes a few small incisions - similar to traditional laparoscopy.

*da Vinci* features a magnified 3D HD vision system and tiny instruments that rotate far greater than the human wrist. These features enable surgeons to operate with enhanced vision, precision, dexterity and control.

Colon Cancer: As a result of *da Vinci* technology, *da Vinci* Colectomy offers the following potential benefits:

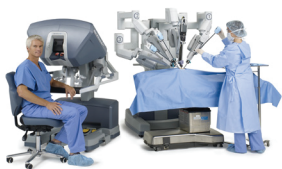
- › Precise removal of cancerous tissue
- › Low blood loss & low rate of complications
- › Quick return of bowel function & normal diet
- › Low conversion rate to open surgery
- › Short hospital stay
- › Small incisions for minimal scarring

Rectal Cancer *da Vinci* Low Anterior Resection offers precise removal of cancerous tissue as well as the following potential benefits compared to open surgery:

- › Less blood loss
- › Less pain
- › Shorter hospital stay & faster recovery
- › Quicker return of bowel function & normal diet
- › Small incisions for minimal scarring

Rectal Cancer: Compared to traditional laparoscopy, *da Vinci* Low Anterior Resection offers the following potential benefits:

- › Lower conversion rate to open surgery
- › Fewer major complications
- › Shorter hospital stay
- › Quicker return to normal diet
- › Quicker return of urinary & sexual function



## Risks & Considerations Related to

*da Vinci* Colectomy & Low Anterior Resection:

Potential risks of any colectomy and low anterior resection procedure include: intestinal fluid leakage, internal bleeding, blockage in the intestine, blocked artery in the lung, abscess, urinary problems, injury to surrounding organs, and wound infections.