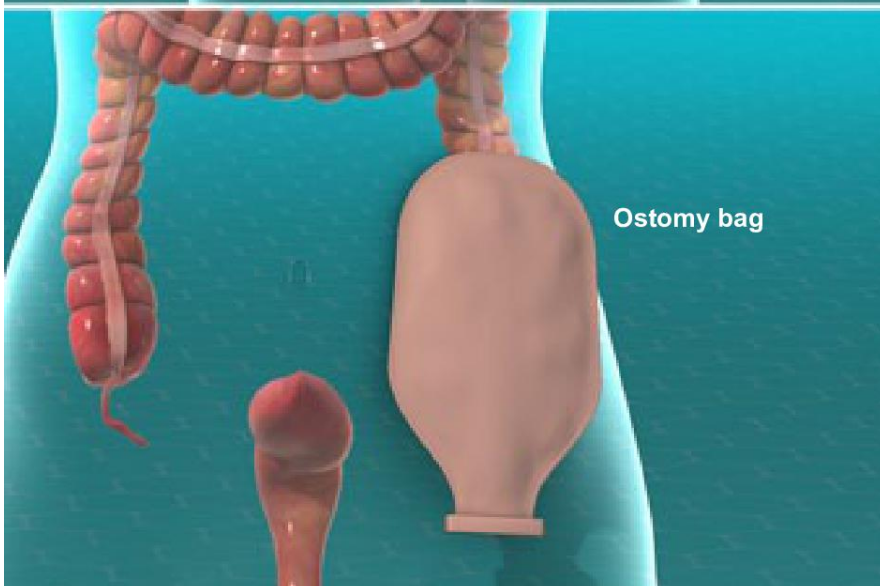
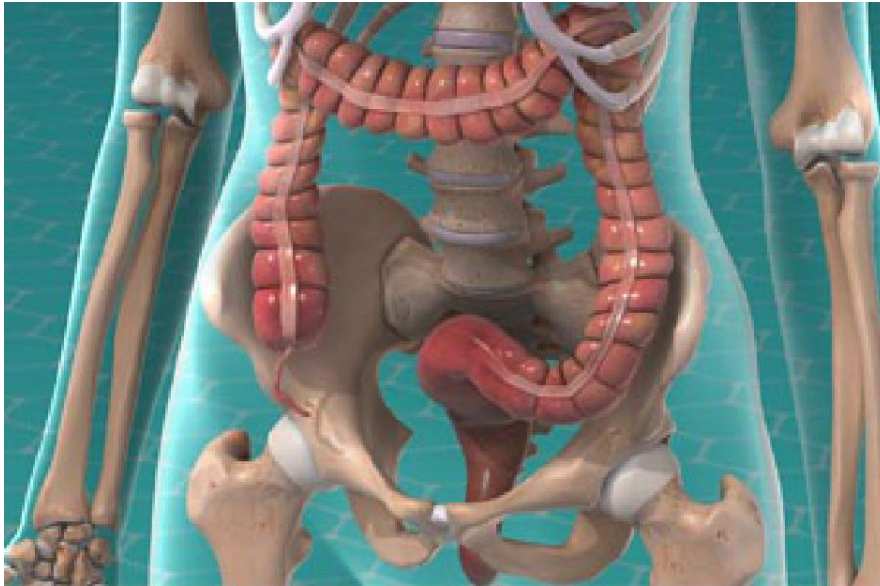




Colectomy



Overview

This is a surgery to remove part or all of your colon. That's another name for your large intestine. You may need a colectomy if you have colon cancer, Crohn's disease or some other problem.

Preparation

To start, you are given medicine that puts you to sleep. The surgeon may make one incision in your abdomen. Or, your surgery can be done through a few small openings in your skin with the help of a special camera called a "laparoscope."

Removal

The surgeon carefully separates your colon from the other organs in your abdomen. One section may be taken out, or your entire colon may be removed. This depends on your needs. Then, the surgeon reconnects the remaining ends of your intestines. This will let what you eat and drink continue to pass through your body. For some patients, the surgeon may make a new opening in your belly. This is called a "stoma." It's a port where you attach a bag to collect your waste. You may need this bag for a short time, or you may need it permanently.

End of Procedure and Aftercare

When your surgery is done, the openings in your skin are closed. You will need to stay in the hospital while you heal. You may have to learn to eat a different diet. Your healthcare provider will give you tips to help your recovery.