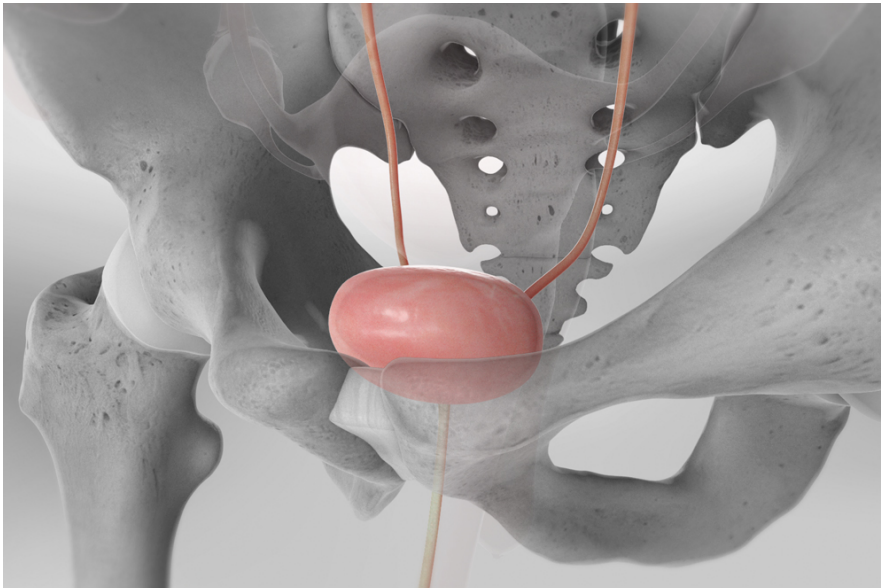




Radical Cystectomy (Robot-Assisted)



Overview

This surgery removes your bladder. That's the organ that holds your pee. We usually do this surgery to treat bladder cancer.

Preparation

To begin, we put you to sleep. We fill your abdomen with air so we can see more clearly. We also make some small openings in your lower belly area.

These openings are for a special camera (called a "laparoscope") and surgical tools. The camera and tools are held by robotic arms. At our computer station, we see a magnified, 3D view inside your body through the camera. And sensitive controls let your surgeon move the arms and use the tools with precision.

Removing your bladder

Now it's time to remove your bladder. We use the surgical tools to carefully separate it from the ureters (the tubes that go from your kidneys to your bladder) and from the urethra (the tube pee uses to exit your body). Then we pull your bladder out through an incision. Along with your bladder, we may need to take out other organs and tissues. In women, we may take the cervix, uterus, fallopian tubes, ovaries and part of the vagina. In men, we may take the prostate and seminal vesicles. And in both men and women, we may take nearby lymph nodes.

Rebuilding your urinary tract

Now we need to rebuild your urinary tract so you can still collect and get rid of pee. We may do this a few ways. One option is to route your pee through an opening we make in your skin. We call this a "stoma." The pee is collected in a bag you wear outside your body. Or, we could create a new pouch inside your body to hold pee. The method we use depends on your needs.

Conclusion

After the surgery, we watch you closely as you wake up. You may need to stay in the hospital for one or more days. Follow your care tips for a safe recovery.

