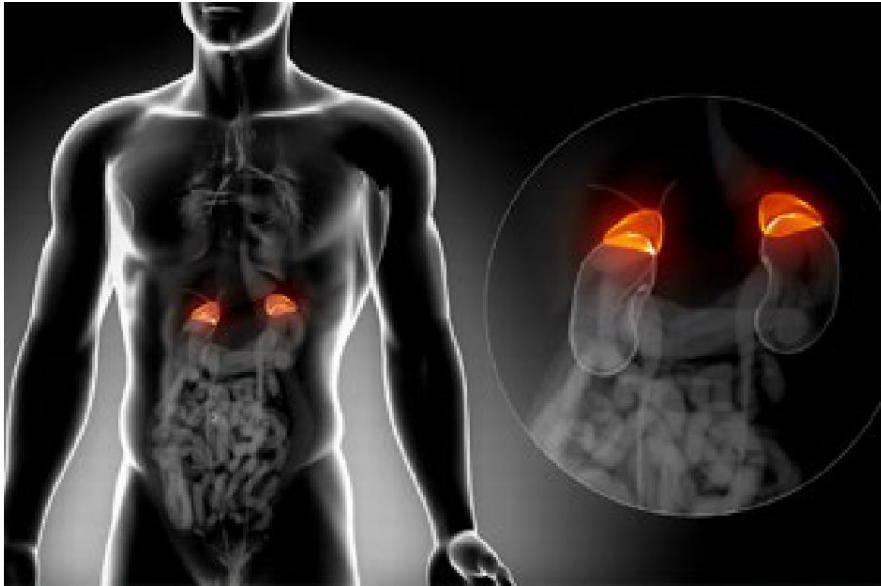




Adrenalectomy



Overview

This surgery removes one or both adrenal glands. These small glands are on top of each of your kidneys. They make hormones that are used for many body functions. You may need to have an adrenal gland removed if your doctor finds cancer or a growth in it. This surgery also helps if your adrenal glands make too many hormones.

Preparation

To begin, you're put to sleep. If you're having open surgery, one large incision is made. Or, if you're having laparoscopic procedure, a few small openings are made. One opening is for a special camera we call a "laparoscope." The others are for tiny instruments.

Removal

Now, the surgeon carefully separates the adrenal gland from the top of your kidney. It's removed from your body. If you're left with one healthy adrenal gland, it will make the hormones you need. If both adrenals are removed, you'll have to take hormone supplements.

End of procedure

Finally, you are bandaged and taken to a recovery room. You're watched closely while you wake up. Follow your surgeon's plan for a safe recovery.

