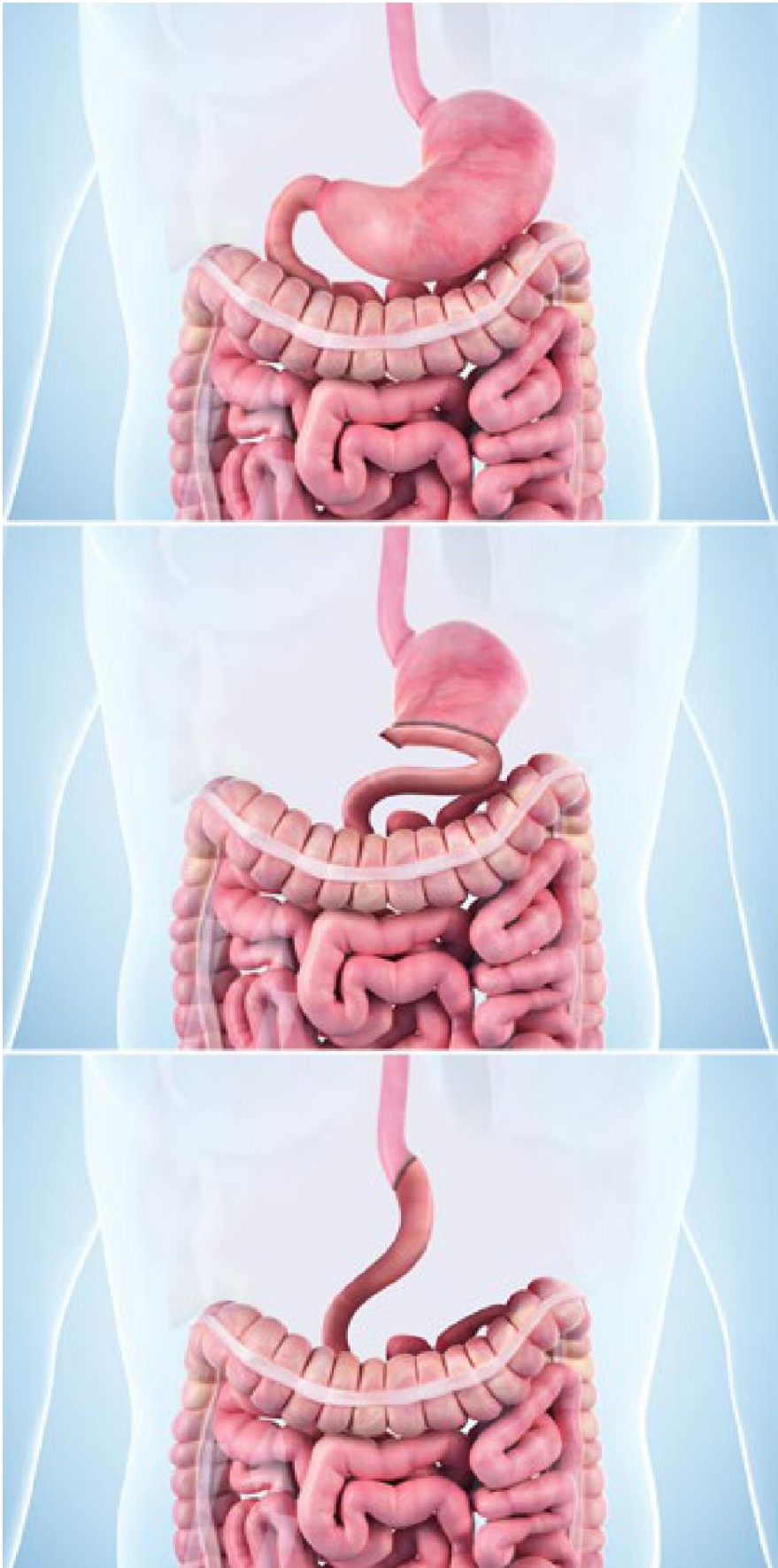




Gastrectomy



Overview

This surgery removes part or all of your stomach. It's used to treat stomach problems that can't be helped in other ways. You may need this surgery if you have stomach bleeding or inflammation. You may need it if you have growths we call "polyps." It's also used to treat cancer.

Preparation

To begin, you're put to sleep. If you're having open surgery, one large incision is made. Or, if you're having a 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 removes some or all of your stomach. If only part of the stomach is taken, your small intestine is connected to what remains. Or, if your entire stomach is taken, your small intestine is connected to your esophagus.

End of procedure

When the surgery is done, you are watched in a recovery room while you wake up. You may stay in the hospital for several days as your body heals. Follow your surgeon's instructions for a safe recovery.