



Surgical techniques used at Boston Children's Hospital

If your child is in need of surgery, it may comfort you to know that Boston Children's Hospital is ranked the #1 pediatric hospital in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report* for 2014–15. Our physicians have been pioneering the use of minimally invasive surgery (MIS) since 2002 and will support your child and family every step of the way.

What is minimally invasive surgery?

Unlike open surgery where one large incision is made, minimally invasive surgery involves a number of smaller incisions and the use of small surgical tools.

Minimally invasive surgery usually results in

- » less scarring
- » shorter recovery time
- » reduced hospital stays compared to open procedures

Getting your child back to everyday activities quicker and with less disruption is our goal.

Understanding your options

What is robotic surgery?

Boston Children's Hospital was the first to perform robotic surgery in children and has a dedicated and experienced core team of clinicians that perform these procedures. Robotic procedures involve the use of a guided "robot." Surgeons insert tiny surgical instruments through small incisions in the skin. Using a lighted telescope, surgeons are able to see 3D images of the operation on a video screen. The robotic system gives the surgeon greater flexibility with direct, precise control over the surgical instruments compared to laparoscopic surgery.

Laparoscopic surgery

Laparoscopic surgery is the most common type of MIS procedure. During a laparoscopic operation and similar to robotic surgery, instruments are passed through small incisions in the body and guided by a telescope with a camera on the end allowing the surgeon to see inside the body. Doctors may choose this type of surgery in certain cases instead of robotic surgery depending upon the care required. Both robotic and laparoscopic offer the same benefits after surgery.*

* Minimally invasive surgery is only performed on certain conditions, and not all patients with those conditions are candidates for these techniques. Consult your physician to determine which option is best for your child.

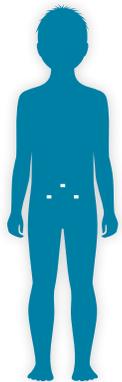
Surgical options

ROBOTIC SURGERY

Surgeons make 3 to 5 small incisions of about ¼ inch each.

Hospital stay: 1–2 days

Resume normal activities:
1–2 weeks

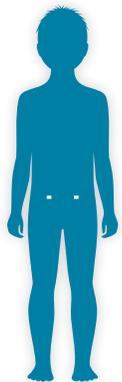


LAPAROSCOPIC SURGERY

Surgeons make 2 to 4 small incisions of about ¼ inch each.

Hospital stay: 1–2 days

Resume normal activities:
1–2 weeks

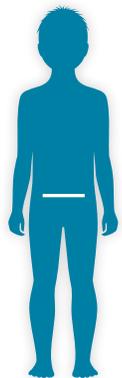


OPEN SURGERY

Surgeons make 1 large incision of about 2 to 3 inches.

Hospital stay: 3–7 days

Resume normal activities:
2–4 weeks



Consult your physician to determine which option is best for your child.

Provided by:

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