

## Tubal Ligation by Laparoscopy

### What is Laparoscopy?

Laparoscopy is a minimally invasive surgical technique which utilizes a telescopic instrument to look directly into the abdomen and pelvis for surgical procedures.

- The laparoscope has a light source which is transmitted by fiber optics and
- a viewing system attached to a video camera connected to a computer monitor which
- allows visualization and photography of the procedure.

### How is laparoscopy done?

Pelvic organs (the uterus, ovaries and fallopian tubes) are visualized by distending the abdomen with gas

- a needle is inserted through a small incision in the abdominal cavity.
- Several liters of carbon dioxide are introduced into the abdominal cavity
- This distends the abdomen which provides room to place the surgical instruments.
- When the abdomen is distended, a sheath is inserted into the abdomen and the laparoscope placed within the sheath.
- A light and camera is attached to the scope allowing us to view the internal organs through the laparoscope.

### How is the tubal ligation done?

- At this time the fallopian tubes are either
  - cauterized (burned)
  - cut
  - clipped or
  - removed,

depending on how your individual physician performs the procedure.

- ❖ **The inability to become pregnant is immediate and coincident with severing the fallopian tubes.**
- ❖ **The tubes are PERMANENTLY BLOCKED NOT ALLOWING FERTILIZATION TO TAKE PLACE.**
- ❖ ***Patients are encouraged to also consider long term, reversible contraception before making a lifetime decision for permanent sterilization.***

Where is this procedure done?

- Laparoscopy is performed at an outpatient surgery center.
- Most patients leave the surgical facility within an hour and will be
- advised to limit activity such as driving, until the following day.

Are there other affects of severing the fallopian tubes? The procedure generally has other affect on you in regard to

- hormone production
- menstrual cycles
- sexual functioning
- orgasm
- onset of menopause.

For further, more detailed information regarding this procedure, please call our office for a consultation.