

Surgical Options for Colorectal Cancer

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Surgery for Colorectal Cancer

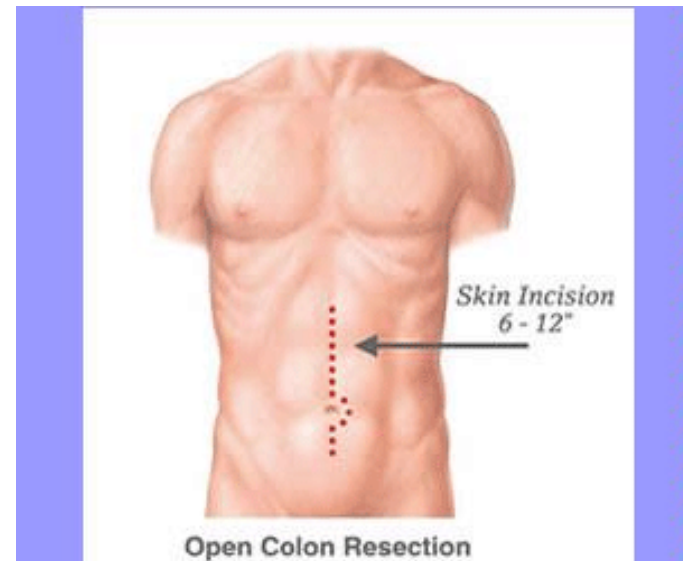
- Surgery is the mainstay therapy for cure of colon and rectal cancer
- Type of surgery will depend on many factors:
 - Location of tumor
 - Tumor relationship with other organs
 - Patient's preference
 - Patient's characteristics (weight, previous surgery)
 - Surgeon training

What kind of surgeries are available?

- Conventional open approach
- Laparoscopic surgery
- Robotic surgery
- Local surgery

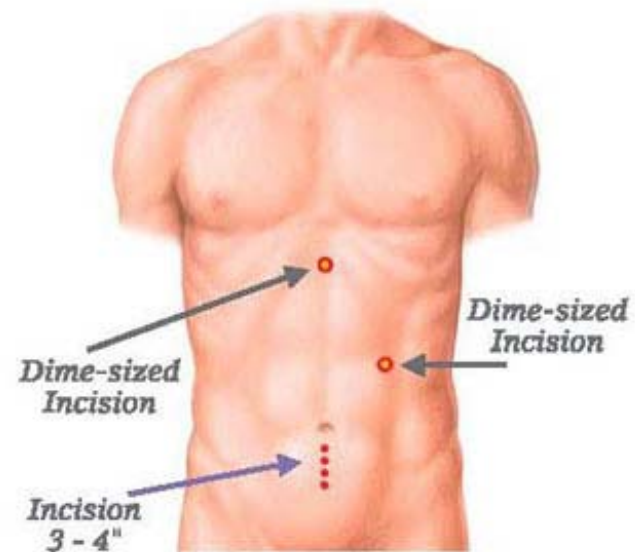
Open Surgery

- Traditional approach
- Only accepted surgical method for the treatment of colorectal cancer until the 90's
- Standard against all other procedures were compared
- Slow recovery
- Wound complications



Laparoscopic Surgery

- Keyhole surgery
- Achieves the same results that open surgery
- Faster recovery
- Less wound complications
- Not every patient is a candidate



Robotic Surgery

- Robot is controlled by the surgeon at all times
- Surgeon is in the room next to the patient
- Benefits of robotic surgery mirror those of laparoscopic surgery
- Better visualization in narrow areas (rectal surgery)



Local Excision

- Used to treat selected patients with low rectal cancer
- Also used to remove precancerous polyps
- Fast recovery
- Minimal pain and discomfort
- Not every patient is a candidate



What operation is best for me

- This should be part of the conversation with your surgeon
- Keyhole type surgery is not appropriate for every patient
- There are decisions more important than the size of the incision
- Goal: cure cancer, other goals are important but secondary
- Talk to your medical team, and look for a second opinion if not satisfied with the answers you are getting