

UPPER GASTROINTESTINAL SURGERY – Removal of Gall Bladder

Introduction

The Covid pandemic has had a significant impact on the NHS ability to provide routine elective services. We recognise that patients are waiting longer than we would all like and it is not always possible to identify when treatment will take place. This document provides you with information on how you can support yourself while waiting to attend the hospital. The guidance has been written by clinicians who are responsible for your care.

Guidance for Patients

Whilst you are waiting for your gall bladder to be removed you should try to avoid eating fat. To help you cut the total amount of fat in your diet you can:

- compare food labels when you shop so you can choose foods that are lower in fat
- choose lower-fat or reduced-fat dairy products or dairy alternatives
- grill, bake, poach or steam food rather than frying or roasting
- measure oil with a teaspoon to control the amount you use, or use an oil spray
- trim visible fat and take the skin off meat and poultry before cooking it
- choose leaner cuts of meat that are lower in fat, such as turkey breast and reduced-fat mince
- make your meat stews and curries go further by adding vegetables and beans
- try reduced-fat spreads, such as spreads based on olive or sunflower oils

It is important that while you are waiting for your surgery you also remain as active and as medically fit as possible. That will help you get the best results in the long term. If you have any long-standing conditions such as high blood pressure you should get this regularly reviewed at your GP surgery to make sure it remains well controlled. This will also help prevent any unnecessary delays when you come for your pre-operative assessment. Maintaining a well-balanced diet is also important, as is reducing any excessive weight that may be impacting on your general health. If you are a current smoker or drink heavily, it would be advisable to seek support to help with stopping.

The NHS website has lots of tools and support to help with the above, all of which are good for your health generally, but if you are due to have an operation, they can also help you to recover more quickly from it.

For help and support with losing weight visit: www.nhs.uk/better-health/lose-weight/

For advice on eating well visit: www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/

For help and support with getting or keeping active visit: www.nhs.uk/better-health/get-active/

For help and support with quitting smoking visit: www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/

For help and support with drinking less alcohol visit: www.nhs.uk/better-health/drink-less/

My Planned Care Patient Information Platform

What should I do if my health is deteriorating?

If your condition suddenly worsens whilst you are waiting you should seek advice.

If you develop a high temperature or notice your eyes or skin becoming yellow, you should get health advice urgently from your GP.

If your episodes of pain are getting longer, more frequent or are provoked more easily, please contact the upper GI secretaries to let us know.

Urgent Health Advice

For urgent health advice about physical or mental health, when it's not an emergency, please call 111 from any landline or mobile phone. You can also visit www.nhs.uk. The NHS 111 service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Life Threatening Emergencies

For something life threatening – severe bleeding, breathing difficulties or chest pains – please dial 999.

Contact Us

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