

MEDICALADVISORS, INC

TECHNICAL NETWORK CONSULTING SERVICE®



LAPAROSCOPIC CHOLECSTECTOMY

LAPAROSCOPIC CHOLECSTECTOMY
General Surgeon from Georgia

This procedure gained worldwide acceptance in the early 1990's. It essentially replaced open cholecystectomy. Unfortunately, early training in the technique was often inadequate and complications rapidly followed. Entry into the abdomen was blind with large, pointed trocars resulting in injury to vital organs and large blood vessels. Deaths were recorded with regularity. Internal procedural injuries included injuries or division of bile ducts and destruction of hepatic blood vessels. Both types of injuries can be devastating to the longevity of the patient in spite of adequate, accepted repairs.

The surgeon must be held to the same standards as for open cholecystectomy. Although possible complications may be explained to the patient, deviations from the standard of care include any injury to the bile ducts, major blood vessels or other organs. Inquiries should be made into the training of the surgeon and the number of procedures he or she has performed. Difficulty of the operation does not excuse the damages discussed.

Conversion to an open procedure is paramount when problems arise and adequate and accepted repair procedures must be used. Bile duct injuries often lead to late complications such as liver failure. Multiple operations may be necessary to maintain bile duct patency. Injuries to the hepatic blood supply may lead to necrosis of the liver though this is rare.

Laparoscopic cholecystectomy has been beneficial to most patients, but the same or a greater standard of care used for open cholecystectomy must be forcefully applied.

There are numerous experts who are more than willing to provide testimony for medical malpractice and personal injury litigation cases. Finding the right one is crucial to the strength of your particular case.

Since 1983, Medical Advisors has assisted in the selection of expert witnesses in several thousand cases. Working with plaintiff and defense bar, we have provided medical opinions and testimony which have resulted in competent preparation and in-court support for cases involving medical malpractice, hospital negligence, personal injury, workers' compensation and product liability.

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