YOUR OPERATION - WHAT IS IT?

**Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy –**

a surgical operation for the treatment of

gallstones. The gallbladder is removed by Laparoscopic surgery (key hole). Small incisions are made in the abdomen and a laparoscope is inserted through an incision in the navel. The gallbladder is then removed through one of the incisions.

WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER YOUR OPERATION

• After a general anaesthetic you may be drowsy

• You may have general neck / throat ‘soreness’

and

• Will most likely have a dry mouth

• A nurse will monitor your vital signs – blood pressure, pulse, temperature, respirations and oxygen saturations regularly for the first 4 hours post-operatively

• The nurse will also ask you to rate your pain on a scale of 0 – no pain to 10 – worst pain imaginable and administer pain relief medication as necessary

• After your procedure, you will **NOT** be able to eat or drink for four (4) hours - then you will commence on a Low Fat diet

• If you tolerate this diet you will be able to go home

POST OPERATIVE PERIOD

• You will usually have an intravenous Cannula `drip’

• There will be 4 small incisions on your abdomen

• You may have nausea, shoulder tip pain or

abdominal bloating

• There can be some numbness and/ or swelling

at the incision sites

**LENGTH OF STAY IN HOSPITAL** – is 1 night. Please try and have transport arranged for your discharge the day after surgery unless otherwise instructed. In some cases, it is possible to be discharged the same day if you have recovered well.

**DISHARGE PLANNING – GOING HOME**

* Following your discharge, it is very important that you give yourself time to recuperate and heal
* You may have increased flatus `wind’, abdominal cramps, diarrhoea or constipation following this procedure
* Wound Care – Leave dressings on for 5 days post discharge, then remove and wash wound in shower. All stitches are underneath the skin, so nothing has to be removed. Observe for signs of infection such as increased redness, swelling, pain, ooze or heat and report to local GP or phone the rooms of Dr Barbour (3847 7133)
* Be sure to take all prescribed medications
* No heavy lifting or vigorous exercise
* You will need to make an follow-up appointment for 4 weeks to see the clinic nurse, Dr Barbour will also see you at this time (3847 7133)

**Brisbane Specialist Surgery**

**Greenslopes Private Hospital**

**LAPAROSCOPIC**

**CHOLECYSTECTOMY**

