

Laparoscopic Splenectomy versus Conventional Splenectomy

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Objective: Our aim was to compare laparoscopic with conventional splenectomy for haematological indications with regard to duration of surgery, amount of blood loss and hospital stay.

Method: A retrospective study was done from January 1997 to August 2000 on all cases who had undergone splenectomy for haematological indications. These were divided into two groups of 7 patients each, those who had conventional splenectomy and the others who had it done laparoscopically. A comparison between the two groups was done for age, sex, indication for surgery, duration of surgery, amount of blood lost during surgery, drain usage and hospital stay.

Results: Laparoscopic splenectomy patients had longer operative time, less blood loss and less hospital stay compared to the patients who had conventional splenectomy. A drain was kept in all patients except two who had conventional splenectomy.

Conclusion: Laparoscopic splenectomy for haematological indications can be done safely for the properly selected patients with less blood loss and hospital stay but it requires more operative as compared to conventional splenectomy.