

SINGLE-SITE CHOLECYSTECTOMY EHMC Takes 'Navel' Approach to Gallbladder Removal

Patients facing gallbladder removal surgery now have access to the latest evolution in gastrointestinal surgery technology at Englewood Hospital and Medical Center, where a single-incision robotic procedure delivers virtually scarless results.

Englewood Hospital is among a select group of hospitals nationwide performing single-site cholecystectomy, also known as gallbladder removal. The procedure is performed in about one hour via a single, one-inch incision hidden in the patient's navel. Patients can be treated and return home with minimal pain in a few hours.

"Unlike standard laparoscopic gallbladder removal surgery, which is performed through four incisions, single-site cholecystectomy is less invasive and is performed through a single, one-inch incision hidden in the belly button," explained Tanuja Damani, MD, FACS, gastrointestinal and laparoscopic surgeon at Englewood Hospital and Medical Center. "Pain is minimal, the scar is nearly invisible, and patients are very pleased with the overall experience and quick recovery. For women especially, this aesthetic improvement is very appealing," said Dr. Damani.



Gallbladder removal surgery is one of the most commonly performed procedures in the United States. It predominantly affects women between the ages of 18 and 44. The single-site technology for gall-

PHOTO COURTESY OF ENGLEWOOD HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER
Tanuja Damani, M.D., FACS, gastrointestinal and laparoscopic surgeon at Englewood Hospital and Medical Center.

bladder removal surgery received approval from the Food and Drug Administration in 2012.

As with gallbladder removal, less invasive surgical techniques have changed the approach to performing a hysterectomy.

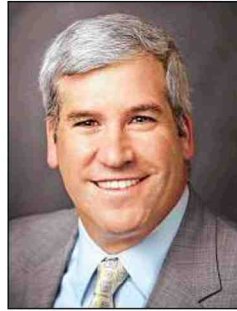


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Michael T. Harris, M.D., chief of Surgery and Surgical Services at Englewood Hospital and Medical Center.

Two decades ago, women undergoing a hysterectomy often required hospitalization and faced a long, painful recovery from a large incision. With the innovation of laparoscopic surgery, hysterectomy has become a same-day procedure with minimal blood loss, a quick recovery and less scarring. The single-site approach offers all the same benefits, but instead of three small scars across the abdomen, there is one invisible scar hidden in the belly button.

Michael T. Harris, MD, chief of Surgery and Surgical Services at Englewood Hospital, says he is excited to see what the future holds for this and other single-site procedures. The FDA recently approved the technique for hysterectomy and there are multiple other applications in development or awaiting FDA approval, including colon resection and obesity-related surgery.

"This is the future of robotic surgery and the possibilities are endless," explained Dr. Harris. "We are pleased to be among a select group of progressive hospitals to offer this new procedure to patients, as part of our promise to deliver the most advanced, high-quality care available."

