STERILIZATION BY LAPAROSCOPY

Sterilization is surgery performed to prevent women from getting pregnant. It is meant to be permanent. Sterilization often is done with a technique called laparoscopy. Laparoscopy comes from the Greek words that mean “look inside the abdomen.” For laparoscopy, the doctor uses a device like a small telescope called a laparoscope to look at the pelvic organs and identify the fallopian tubes so they can be blocked or cut. This prevents pregnancy. This pamphlet will explain:

- How laparoscopy is performed
- Benefits of sterilization by laparoscopy
- Risks of the procedure

Reproduction
- If a woman has sex near the time of ovulation, the egg may be fertilized by the sperm, which travel up through the cervix, through the uterus, and out into the tubes. The fertilized egg then moved down the fallopian tube to the uterus. It then attaches to the uterus and grows into a fetus.

About Sterilization
- With tubal sterilization, both fallopian tubes are blocked by tying, sealing, or attaching a ring to clip to them. The egg then cannot move down the tube to the uterus and the sperm cannot reach the egg. This prevents pregnancy.
- The surgery does not affect either partner’s ability to have or enjoy sex.

Making the Decision
- Sterilization is a permanent method of birth control. You and your partner must be certain that you do not want any more children – now or in the future. If there is any chance that you may want to have more children in the future, think about reversible forms of birth control.
- Laparoscopy is not right for all women.
- Some women are at increased risk of problems with sterilization.
- Overall, vasectomy for the man is easier and less risky than most methods of female sterilization.

What If I Change My Mind?
- Some people regret their decision to have sterilization and would like the procedure reversed.
- People often desire sterilization reversal when they have a new partner.

The Procedure
- A small incision (cut), about ½ inch long, is made in or near the naval.
- The fallopian tubes are closed by tying, banding, clipping, or cutting them, or by sealing them with electric current. The egg then cannot move down the tube, and the sperm cannot reach the egg.
**Benefits and Risks**

- Sterilization by laparoscopy offers a number of benefits. After sterilization, a woman no longer needs to use other methods of birth control. It is effective right away. It does not affect a woman’s sexual activity or menstrual cycle. However, women who used to use hormonal contraception will no longer have the benefit of shorter and lighter periods. Women who have been sterilized may have a slighter lower risk of cancer of the ovary and pelvic inflammatory disease.

- Fewer than 1 in 100 women who have a sterilization procedure will become pregnant.

* Please see brochure in link