

Guide for Nephrectomy and Partial Nephrectomy

Your plan for surgery will depend on your diagnosis and plan of care. This information is meant to give broad information about this type of surgery. Your specific plan will be individualized for you.

The size and location of your tumor will determine the type of surgery that is planned for you.

About the Surgery:

Radical nephrectomy removes the entire kidney, sometimes including the adrenal gland and lymph nodes close to the kidney and fatty tissue around the kidney. The adrenal gland is located on each kidney and produces hormones for maintaining normal metabolism. Lymph nodes are small bean shaped organs of the immune system linked by lymphatic vessels throughout the body.

Partial Nephrectomy

A partial nephrectomy removes only the part of the kidney affected by the tumor. This may be done for smaller tumors, or for patients with kidney failure or problems with the opposite kidney.

Diagnostic Test Prior to Surgery

You may have several of the following tests before surgery. A physical exam, EKG, chest x-ray and blood tests will be done. A CT scan (computerized tomography) or MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) or ultrasound may be done.

Anesthesia Evaluation

The anesthesia provider will review your medical history and discuss anesthesia with you. It is important to discuss your current medications and over-the-counter medications and supplements.

Discharge Instructions

Discharge instructions will be provided which will include pain control, diet, wound care, resumption of medications, activity restrictions, and symptoms you should report to your surgeon. It is important to know how to contact your surgeon. An appointment will be scheduled with your surgeon for follow up after discharge.