

OPEN NEPHRECTOMY

What is a nephrectomy?

- The removal of one kidney containing a suspected cancer, with surrounding fat
- It is performed through a cut in the front or side of the abdomen
- Lymph glands or the adrenal gland may also be removed

Why do I need this?

- To remove a kidney tumour, and determine if a cancer is present and its extent
- Also performed to remove a kidney damaged by obstruction, stones, or infection

How long does it take?

- 1 – 3 hours under a general anaesthetic

What are the risks?

- Infection – antibiotics are given
- Bleeding and need for blood transfusion
- Numbness, bulge or hernia at the wound site
- Injury to large bowel, spleen or liver – very rare

What can I expect after surgery?

- You will stay in the High Dependency Unit overnight
- A bladder catheter and wound drain are left for 1 – 2 days
- Physiotherapy to assist mobility and deep breathing may be needed
- Hospital stay is 5 - 7 days
- You will be given a postop review appointment about 6 weeks following surgery
- Avoid strenuous activity for 6 - 8 weeks

Living with one kidney

- One kidney can easily support a normal and active life. There is no need to limit activities or lifestyle.

Peter Sutherland, John Bolt, Brian Landers, Richard Wells, Darren Foreman

326 South Terrace, Adelaide, 5000.

Telephone: 8223 1472 www.sturology.com.au