

DR CHARLES CHABERT

M.B.Ch.B. M.R.C.S. (Ed) F.R.A.C.S. (Urol)

**LAPAROSCOPIC UROLOGICAL
SURGEON**

ABN: 27 129 893 198

Provider No: 2263028K

All correspondence to:

P O Box 1

TUGUN QLD 4224

Tel: (07) 55 980 589

Fax: (07) 55 980 586

Consulting Rooms:

Suite 1C, Level 1

John Flynn Medical Centre

42 Inland Drive

TUGUN QLD 4224

Greenlight laser prostatectomy patient information

Who needs this operation?

This operation is required for men that have difficulty with water work function as a result of an enlarged prostate. It might be that you have failed medical therapy (alpha blockers), your symptoms are not improving or even deteriorating. The severity of symptoms do not always correlate with prostate size. That is to say, you may have severe symptoms with only a mildly enlarged gland. Conversely, men with large gland sizes don't necessarily have pronounced symptoms. Alternatively, it might be that you are unable to pass water at all and currently have a catheter in place. Other reasons for requiring this surgery include persistent bleeding that has been shown to be originating from the prostate; the formation of bladder stones due to chronic retention of urine, recurrent urinary tract infections, or a deterioration in your kidney function that is related to a blockage caused by an enlarged prostate.

What does the operation involve?

You will be admitted to hospital the day of your surgery. It is important to have nothing to eat or drink for at least six hours prior to the time of surgery. This operation is performed on an in-patient basis, which means that you will be admitted from the day of your surgery for a period of 24hrs usually.

A spinal or general anaesthetic is used. A general anaesthetic is most commonly adopted and involves being completely asleep during the procedure. A spinal anaesthetic involves the placement of a needle into the back allowing medicine to be administered, which makes the lower part of a man's body numb.

After the anaesthetic has been administered the operation can begin. Initially, a camera examination of the outlet pipe of the bladder (urethra), prostate and the lining of the bladder is then performed.

Greenlight laser prostatectomy is an alternative surgical treatment to TURP. Laser technology for treating enlarged prostates has been around for some time, however, this approach has only been offered in major metropolitan centres until recently. The availability of GreenLight laser in this region represents a critical milestone in the provision of minimally invasive surgical treatments for disease of the renal tract and suitable candidates no longer have to travel to Sydney or Melbourne to be treated in this way. The techniques results in outcomes that are at least as good when compared to a traditional TURP, however, there are some significant advantages to using laser energy. These advantages translate into shorter hospital stays (usually overnight or day only), reduction in catheter duration (typically less than 24hrs compared with 3days) and a reduction in bleeding complications and transfusion rates.

Complications

Although this is a safe and very common urological operation, there are several complications that are possible. There are general complications that are possible with any form of surgery and there are those that are specific to this particular operation itself.

You're anaesthetist and will discuss matters relating to the form of anaesthetic that he or she will give, provide details regarding possible complications and will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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- The most common minor side effects associated with this treatment include transient irritative symptoms such as urgency, nocturia and frequency. These are more likely if you have had these symptoms predominately prior to you treatment.
- Small amounts of blood in the urine (haematuria) is also possible and is usually self limiting.
- Infections are rare but when they do occur can be diagnosed with a simple urine test and treated with a course of oral antibiotics.