



UROLOGICAL  
CONSULTANTS

info@uroconsultants.com  
www.uroconsultants.com

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Barry Aron, MD, FACS  
Leonard S. Bloom, MD  
Gary S. Friedlander, MD  
Edward C. Gilbert, MD  
Robert L. Goldman, MD  
Murray Lieberman, MD  
Juan P. Litvak, MD  
Nizamuddin J. Maruf, MD  
Eddie Michli, MD  
Roberto Pedraza, MD  
Bart Radolinski, MD  
Mark H. Ratner, MD  
Bernard J. Rogus, MD, FACS  
Robert J. Sher, MD  
Jonathan L. White, MD

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Ambulatory Urosurgical Ctr  
401 East Jefferson Street  
Suite 105  
Rockville, MD 20850  
301.209.8219 voice

6410 Rockledge Drive  
Suite 503  
Bethesda, MD 20817  
301.530.1700 voice  
301.530.0418 fax

20528 Boland Farm Road  
Suite 202  
Germantown, MD 20874

18111 Prince Philip Drive  
Suite 101  
Olney, MD 20832  
301.598.9717 voice

15225 Shady Grove Road  
Suite 307  
Rockville, MD 20850  
301.258.1919 voice  
301.258.9180 fax

9715 Medical Center Drive  
Suite 404  
Rockville, MD 20850  
301.424.0433 voice  
301.424.0422 fax

3801 International Drive  
Suite 205  
Silver Spring, MD 20906  
301.598.9717 voice  
301.598.3230 fax

2730 University Blvd, West  
Suite 516  
Wheaton, MD 20902

# FACTSHEET

## ROBOT-ASSISTED LAPAROSCOPIC PYELOPLASTY OR URETERO PELVIC JUNCTION (UPJ) OBSTRUCTION REPAIR

### ***About the Procedure:***

If the junction between the kidney and its drainage tube, the ureter, has a narrowing causing the flow of urine to be obstructed, this can sometimes be repaired in a minimally invasive fashion. Done laparoscopically, UPJ obstruction repair helps avoid a large incision, a long hospital stay, long recovery time, and offers more cosmetically appealing results. Additionally, the use of the robotic surgery platform allows your doctor to perform the procedure more quickly, exposing you and your kidneys to less stress and potential damage. This is accomplished through 3 to 5 dime-sized incisions in the abdomen. The procedure usually takes about 3 to 4 hours and you should expect to spend at least 1 night in the hospital. After the procedure, your doctor may leave a stent, or plastic drainage tube, in your body to help the repair heal. This will need to be removed by your doctor at a later date, so you must remember to follow up when you are scheduled to do so.

### ***Preparing for the Procedure:***

Take only clear liquids on the day prior to the procedure. Acceptable liquids include tea or coffee (no milk or cream), water, apple juice, Gatorade or other sports drinks, popsicles, italian ice, or chicken broth.

Drink five ounces of citrate of magnesium at 4:00 pm the day before the procedure. If this does not produce a bowel movement by 7:00 pm take an additional 2 ounces of citrate of magnesium. This is available over the counter in the laxative section of your pharmacy. Remember to drink plenty of clear liquids to stay hydrated while preparing for your procedure. Do not eat or drink anything after midnight the night before the procedure. You should take your usual medications as you normally would the morning of your procedure with a small sip of water only (avoid juice, milk, coffee, etc.).

Starting 5 to 10 days prior to your procedure (ask your doctor for a specific time), it is important to stop taking medications that might increase your risk of bleeding. For a list of blood-thinning medications that should be avoided, ask your doctor.

### ***After the Procedure:***

There will be dressings on the incisions that can be removed on the second day after the procedure. After that, it is OK to shower (let soap and water run over the incision, then pat dry), but baths and soaking in a tub should be avoided for 2 weeks after the procedure. The incisions should be kept clean and dry to allow them to heal, so it is important to shower once a day. The incisions generally heal in five to seven days, but avoid any strenuous activity and exercise or heavy lifting for 4 to 6 weeks after the procedure. Your doctor will remove the surgical staples in your incisions at your first office visit following your discharge from the hospital. This is not painful and only takes a few minutes.

It is usually OK to resume your blood-thinning medication the day after your procedure, but check with your doctor to be sure. Take all the medications prescribed by your doctor (including any antibiotics and pain medications), and schedule an appointment to follow up with him within the first 2 weeks after the procedure (ask your doctor if you are unsure when to follow up).

Make arrangements for someone to drive you home on the day of your discharge from the hospital.