

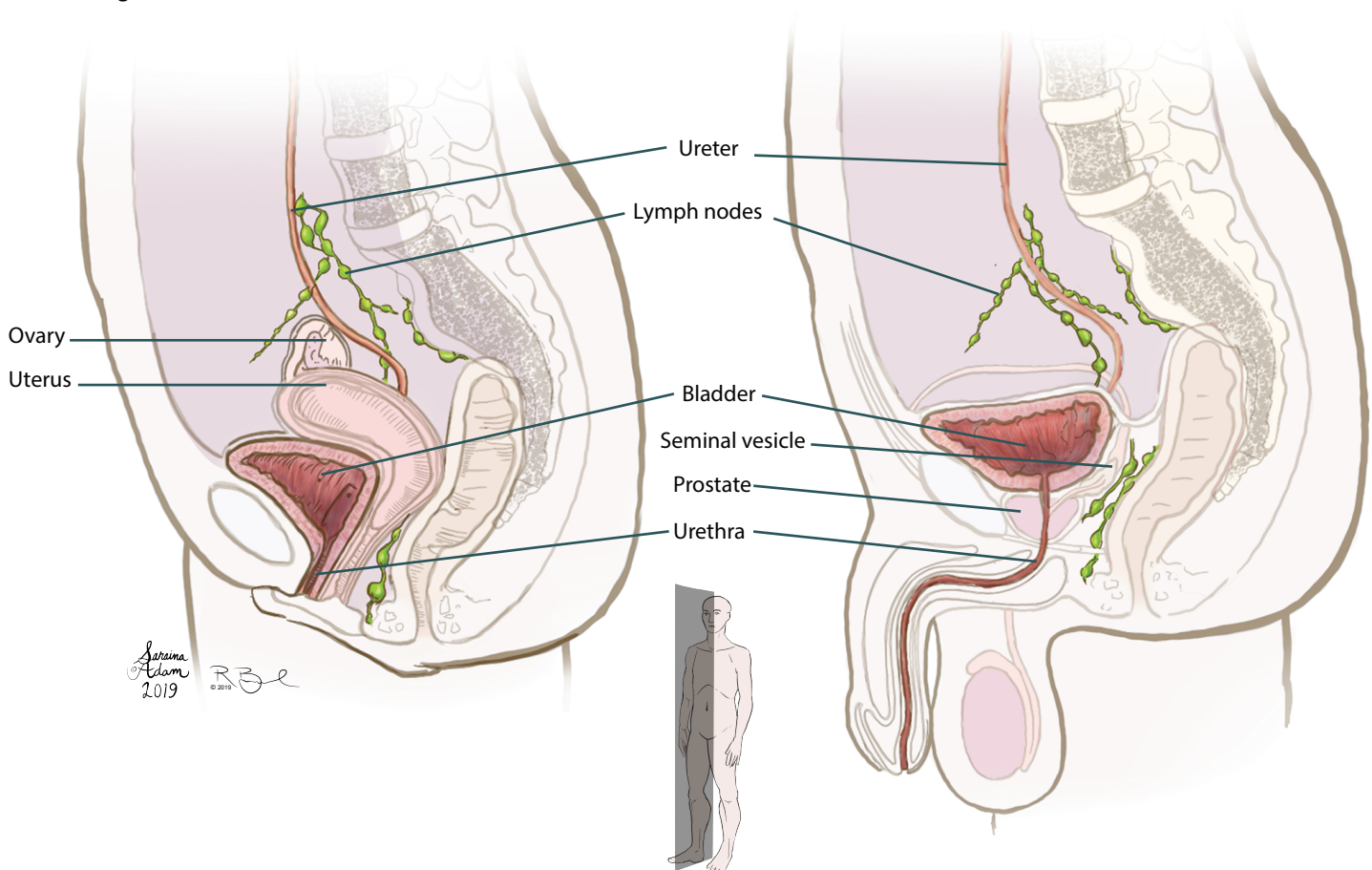
# Radical Cystectomy Information Guide

## Open and Robotic

### About the Procedure

- Your surgeon has determined that you will need a surgery to remove your bladder. The bladder is a sac-like organ that sits behind the pubic bone and stores urine (Figure 1). A radical cystectomy is a surgery performed to remove the bladder and surrounding tissues.

Figure 1



### What To Expect Before the Procedure

- You will receive a general anesthetic before your surgery, so you will not be awake or feel any pain.
- You may receive a spinal catheter (epidural) through which you will receive pain medication, or a regional nerve blockade. When you wake up after surgery, this will help to control your pain.

## What To Expect During the Procedure

- Depending on the type of surgery that you and your surgeon have determined is appropriate for you, you will either have a single larger incision just above the pubic bone (Figure 2), or a few small incisions made on the abdomen (Figure 2).
- The bladder, the surrounding tissues, and lymph nodes will be removed.
- You will have a new way to store and empty urine, most commonly through a channel of intestine connected to the skin called an ileal conduit (Figure 3). Some patients may have a new bladder created from intestine (Figure 4). Your surgeon will discuss this with you before your surgery.
- You will wake up from surgery with a drain in the abdomen, and possibly small plastic tubes called stents in your ostomy. The drain will likely be removed prior to discharge from the hospital, and the stents may be removed during or after your hospital stay.

Figure 2

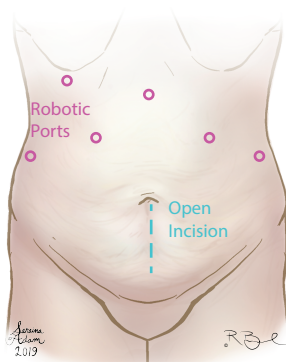


Figure 3

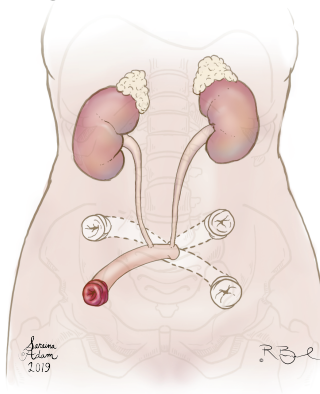
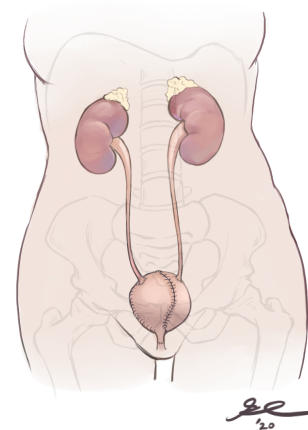


Figure 4



## What To Expect After the Procedure

- You will recover in the hospital. Expect to stay at least one night. Many patients are able to go home the day following surgery.
- You may have a pain pump called a patient-controlled analgesia (PCA) device. Your pain medications will initially be given through an IV line. As soon as you are able to tolerate a diet, your pain medication will be given by mouth.
- Anticipate early ambulation after surgery. Your nurse will help you to walk the same day as, or the day after surgery. Walking is very important. If you need additional assistance walking, this can be provided for you.
- You are encouraged to chew gum. You will likely start a diet of clear liquids, and can expect to be eating regular food on the first or second day after surgery. There is no danger to eating regular food after surgery.
- Care of your conduit or neobladder will be further discussed with the nurses. They will assist you with stoma and neobladder care during your hospital stay.

### Discharge

Further instructions will be provided prior to your discharge from the hospital