

# Closure of Loop Ileostomy

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This fact sheet is for general information about this procedure only. It is not intended to be used as medical advice or to replace advice that your relevant healthcare professional would give you. If you have a particular medical problem, please consult a healthcare professional.

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## What is closure of a loop ileostomy?

A loop ileostomy is a type of stoma (your bowel opening onto your skin) and was made with two ends of your small bowel. It was expected that this would be only temporary and that your bowel ends would be put back together.

Your bowels will then open in the usual way.

## What are the benefits of surgery?

You should be able to open your bowels in the normal way and you should no longer have a stoma bag.

## What does the operation involve?

The operation is performed under a general anaesthetic and usually takes about an hour.

Your surgeon will make a cut on your skin around the ileostomy. They will free up the loops of small bowel used to make the ileostomy. Your surgeon will join the two ends back together and place the joined bowel back inside your abdominal cavity.

## What complications can happen?

Some complications can be serious and can even cause death.

### General complications of any operation

- Bleeding
- Developing a hernia in the scar
- Infection of the surgical site (wound)
- Allergic reaction to the equipment, materials or medication
- Acute kidney injury
- Chest infection
- Blood clot in your leg
- Blood clot in your lung
- Difficulty passing urine

### Specific complications of this operation

- Anastomotic leak
- Bowel obstruction
- Continued bowel paralysis

- Diarrhoea
- Developing an abnormal connection (fistula) between your bowel and your skin

## Consequences of this procedure

- Pain
- Unsightly scarring of your skin

## How soon will I recover?

You may be able to go home the same day. However, your doctor may recommend that you stay in hospital a little longer.

You should feel strong enough to return to normal activities within a few weeks of going home.

Regular exercise should help you to return to normal activities as soon as possible. Before you start exercising, ask the healthcare team or your GP for advice.

Most people make a good recovery. You will be followed up as planned after your original operation.

## Summary

Surgery to join the two ends of your bowel back together should allow you to open your bowels in the normal way. You will no longer need a stoma bag.

Keep this information document. Use it to help you if you need to talk to the healthcare team.

Some information, such as risk and complication statistics, is taken from global studies and/or databases. Please ask your surgeon or doctor for more information about the risks that are specific to you, and they may be able to tell you about any other suitable treatments options.

This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant healthcare team would give you.

## Acknowledgements

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Closure of a loop ileostomy

**Illustrator**

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