Colon Surgery (Colectomy)

Indications for Surgery

- Colon cancer
- Large polyp
- Recurrent diverticulitis
- Stricture
- Colonic inertia / severe chronic constipation

Operation

- Open
- Laparoscopic

Alternatives

- Observation/Do nothing-can lead to obstruction
- Endoscopic removal-can result in incomplete removal or perforation
- Endoscopic dilatation-can result in perforation, can recur
- Medical therapy

Complications & Risks

General

- Blood clots (DVT/PE)
- Pneumonia
- Heart attack
- Stroke
- Bleeding
- Infection

Specific

- Anastomotic leak
- Colostomy
- Injury to ureter or other organs
- Adhesions, bowel obstructions
- Hernia

Post Op Expectations

- Hospitalized 3-8 days
- Bowel movements may be different
- No heavy lifting 4-6 weeks