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In the month of March I discuss oncology surgeries, read all about the oncology surgeries that I perform.

Oncology Surgeries

Surgical oncology is a field of medicine that uses surgery to treat cancer. The main goal of oncology surgery is to find harmful tumours and remove them. Surgery is used to improve your condition the main goal is to remove tumours and nearby tissue that has cancer cells.

Procedures called biopsies are done to tell if you have cancer and how severe the cancer is. Oncology surgeries are done to help people during the early stages of cancer or when the condition is more advanced.

Surgery may be the only treatment for some people and for many others it may be used with other treatments. Surgery is often done after or before or with treatment. Each cancer surgery is different and the benefits and risks of each will be discussed in detail.

Oncology Surgeries

Diagnosis

Different types of biopsies are done in conjunction with other cancer surgeries. The type of biopsy a patient needs depends on their specific case, the stage and severity of cancer. A lymph node biopsy can be used to diagnose cancer and see whether the cancer cells have spread to the lymph nodes and to other parts of the body.

There are three types of lymph node biopsies.

- Fine needle aspiration – this biopsy is done under anaesthesia by inserting a needle into a lymph node to extract fluid and cells for testing.
- Core needle biopsy – this biopsy is done with local anaesthesia where a hollow needle is used to take a sample of tissue for testing
- Pen biopsy – this is done under anaesthesia and involves a part of the lymph node being cut out after which your surgeon will close the incision with absorbable stitches or surgical staples.

Surgery can help diagnose, determine the stage and plan other treatments that may be needed.

Surgery may be used to:

- Diagnose and stage a cancer.
- Remove the whole cancer (tumor/mass).
- Remove some, but not all of the tumor.
- Ease symptoms caused by the cancer.

Treatment

Surgery may be the only treatment for some patients. For many people, surgery is used along with other treatments. These can be chemotherapy, biologic, targeted or immune therapies, radiation therapy, and hormone therapy. Other surgeries, such as those used in interventional specialties, may be used too. Not all cancers can be treated with surgery. In some cases, the patient may not be healthy enough to have surgery. For others, the tumor may not be able to be safely removed without causing problems for the patient. All benefits and risks will be discussed before any surgery is performed.

It is essential to contact me if you experience any of the following symptoms as emergency care may be needed; high temperature, vomiting, swelling around the incision, bleeding from the wound and extreme pain.

You are more than welcomed to get in contact with me my details are below.

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