



Hernia Repair Glossary^{1, 2}

Your doctor might mention these common terms. Here's what they mean.

Abdominal Wall The muscles and fatty tissue over your belly.

Anesthesia The medical process that helps you "go to sleep" and not feel pain during the operation.

Biologic Graft³ An implant derived from animal or human tissue. Biologic grafts dissolve completely over time to help support the repair as the body heals.

Bioresorbable Mesh² A mesh implant made of natural biomaterials. After placement, this type of mesh is designed to be absorbed by the body over time to help protect the repair.

Hernia A protrusion of an internal organ or tissue through a weak spot in your muscles or tissue.

Hiatal Hernia A protrusion of an organ, typically the stomach, through the esophageal opening in the diaphragm.

Incarcerated Hernia A hernia is incarcerated if you can no longer return the hernia to its original position with light pressure and massaging. If a hernia becomes incarcerated, you should contact a medical professional.

Incisional Hernia A type of hernia that forms at the site of a previous surgical incision.

Inguinal Hernia A type of hernia located in the groin area. Inguinal hernias are the most common type of hernia.

Laparoscopic Surgery A minimally invasive surgical approach that uses small incisions and long instruments to access the abdomen.

Open Surgery A surgical approach that uses a single long incision to repair a hernia.

Robotic Surgery A minimally invasive surgery requiring small incisions. The surgeon controls the procedure from a specialized robotic console.

Strangulated Hernia A strangulated hernia is a medical emergency requiring immediate attention. Strangulated hernias occur when a section of intestine or other tissue pushes through the hernia site and loses blood supply.

Synthetic Mesh² An implant made of synthetic plastic that will permanently remain in your body to help reinforce the hernia site.

Umbilical Hernia A type of hernia that occurs around the belly button.

1: Oxford English Dictionary, <https://www.oed.com/>

2: U.S Food and Drug Administration. February, 04, 2018, REF-34362 Hernia Surgical Mesh Implants - FDA -www.fda.gov (v0.1)

3: FitzGerald JF, Kumar AS. Biologic versus Synthetic Mesh Reinforcement: What are the Pros and Cons?. FitzGerald, Biologic versus Synthetic Mesh Reinforcement, Clin in Colon and Rectal Surg, 2014 (v0.1)