Laparoscopy is a procedure that allows your surgeon to view (and in some cases, perform surgery on) the organs in your abdomen, such as the intestines, stomach, and gallbladder, and in women, pelvic organs, such as the ovaries. A laparoscope is a long, thin tube that is inserted into the abdomen and allows viewing of abdominal organs with a video camera. Laparoscopic surgery usually results in shorter stays in the hospital than traditional surgery. Because the incisions involved are very small, there is less pain associated with the procedure and recovery is usually faster. Laparoscopic surgery is not appropriate for every operation. Some patients will continue to require traditional open surgery. The January 16, 2002, issue of JAMA contains an article about laparoscopic-assisted surgery for patients with colon cancer.