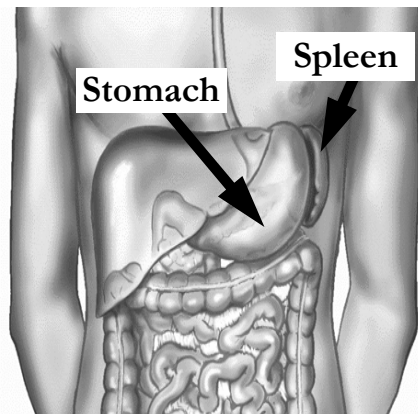


# Splenectomy

## About Your Spleen

Your spleen was a soft, spongy organ that held about three pints of blood, helped you make extra blood and fight infection. It was located on the left side of your body under your lower ribs.



## About Spleen Injuries

Sometimes when the spleen is injured it can heal without an operation. Your doctor would wait and give the spleen time to heal, if possible. However, you have had a major injury to your spleen and the bleeding could not be controlled. An operation was needed. You can live without your spleen.

## Immunizations

Below are the immunizations necessary before discharge:

- Pneumovax
- Meningococcal Vaccine
- Haemophilus
- Flu Shot (if over 50 years old)

**If you have stitches, ask your doctor when they should be removed.**

## Discharge Instructions

- No strenuous activity for six weeks
- Do not lift anything over 10 pounds
- Keep wound clean and dry
- Cover with dry dressing if there is any discharge from the wound
- If there is redness or drainage from the wound call

**Trauma Clinic (814) 877-7054**

## Remember

- If you have a temperature over 101 degrees or shortness of breath—  
Call your family doctor  
or  
Go to the Emergency Room
- Make sure you alert your family doctor or the emergency room doctor that you had a splenectomy. You will need follow-up lab work.

**Your Trauma Clinic  
Appointment is on**

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