

Colorectal Surgery

Huntington Colorectal Surgeons is at the forefront of clinical excellence and advanced surgical techniques. The practice is headed by the award-winning, highly accomplished colorectal surgeon, Dr. Howard Kaufman, who is well-versed in minimally invasive and cutting edge procedures such as robotic surgery.

What is colorectal surgery?

The colorectal region includes the colon and the rectum in the large intestine. As a crucial component of the digestive tract, this region eliminates waste and absorbs key nutrients and water.

This area can develop minor to complex issues that include:

- Hemorrhoids
- Inflammatory bowel disease (Ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease)
- Anal fissures
- Intestinal blockages
- Diverticulitis
- Colorectal cancer
- Bowel incontinence

Most of these conditions are not fatal, but colorectal cancer, the third most common type of cancer in the U.S., can be life-threatening if not treated in time. Chronic conditions that affect the quality of life, such as inflammatory bowel disease, incontinence, or cancers that have not responded to other treatments require colorectal surgery.

Dr. Kaufman and his team excel in performing colorectal surgery using advanced techniques such as the Da Vinci robotic surgery, to treat wide-ranging conditions that affect the colon and the rectum.

What is Da Vinci Robotic Surgery?

Traditional colorectal surgery entails large abdominal incisions that have significant drawbacks such as pain, long recovery time, trauma, and a higher risk of infection.

Dr. Kaufman specializes in performing the Da Vinci Robotic surgery, the most advanced technology that is minimally invasive and highly effective in treating simple to complex colorectal conditions.

With the Da Vinci technology, the surgeon can remove part of the colon or the entire colon if needed, through small incisions. During the procedure, your surgeon sits next to you at a console and uses tiny, wristed instruments to operate. A 3D magnified image is provided by the camera console. The Da Vinci robotic surgery system translates the surgeon's hand movement to move the instruments with precision.

The surgeon also may use Firefly fluorescence imaging that makes it possible to clearly view the colon's interiors by activating an injected dye that lights up. This helps the surgeon visualize the blood flow clearly.

Dr. Kaufman uses his exceptional surgical skills to optimize the precision offered by the robotic system to achieve the best outcomes. The advanced surgical techniques and exceptional patient care offered at Huntington Colorectal Surgeons ensures:

- The recovery time is shorter as compared to traditional surgery
- Less bleeding during and after the procedure
- Minimal pain and discomfort
- Minimal downtime with shorter length of stay at the hospital
- Reduced risk of complications
- Optimal treatment outcome

What to expect during colorectal surgery?

At your initial consultation session, Dr. Kaufman takes great care to evaluate your medical history, medications, and allergy history apart from reviewing the specific colorectal condition that needs treatment. After determining your candidacy for colorectal surgery, the surgeon explains the procedure, the expected outcome, and the care that you need to take before and after the surgery.

He will provide you with detailed instructions and guidelines to prepare for the surgery. For major abdominal surgeries, this can involve cleansing the bowel with laxatives, following a clear liquid diet, or low fiber diet to promote fecal waste elimination.

Depending on the surgical technique chosen, the surgeon makes an incision on the abdomen if it is an open surgery or performs tiny incisions using the Da Vinci robotic surgery system or laparoscope. These techniques are used to resect a part of the colon affected by Crohn's disease, colitis, diverticulitis, colorectal cancer or to treat blockages.

Following your surgery, our medical team is with you every step of the way to monitor you closely in your recovery period. Apart from recommending the appropriate diet until the bowel's functioning returns to normal, the surgeon may prescribe if necessary, pain medication, and other medicines to enhance recovery and minimize discomfort.

Our approach

Huntington Colorectal Surgeons has emerged as the leading colorectal practice in San Gabriel Valley. The highly talented and dedicated team of surgeons and support staff is committed to providing innovative, high-quality, and compassionate care for wide-ranging colon and rectal conditions. Our mission is to offer the most comprehensive patient care in San Gabriel Valley by focusing on state-of-the-art surgical techniques, minimal pain, optimal patient outcomes, cultural sensitivity, and individual support.

Dr. Kaufman, who heads the practice is intensely focused on the use of minimally invasive techniques that reduce surgical trauma, pain and enable patients to return to work in a short time. He is the pioneer of minimally invasive techniques to treat Crohn's disease and has the distinction of being the first surgeon on the west coast to perform laparoscopic colon surgery. As early adopters of robotic surgery and other advanced technologies, our practice is renowned for its clinical excellence and multidisciplinary care quality.

A private and friendly ambiance along with highly trained professionals enhances the patient experience at our practice.

Book an appointment with Dr. Kaufman to know more about colorectal surgery, your candidacy, and the outcomes.