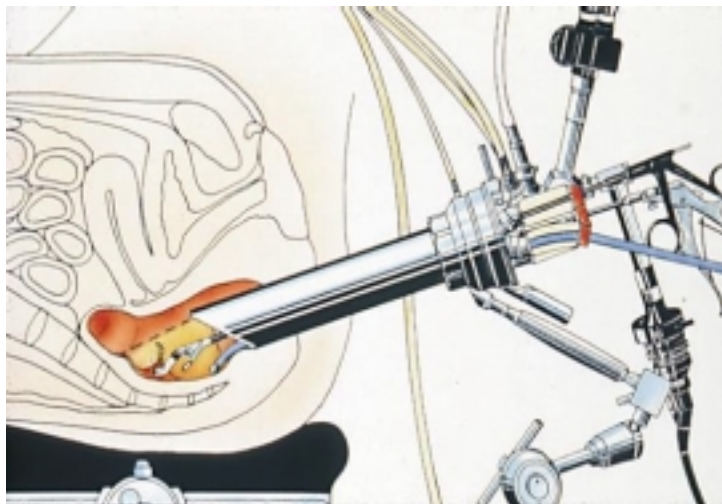


What is TEMS?

TEMS stands for Transanal Endoscopic MicroSurgery.

It is a specially designed operating system which allows surgery to be performed within the back passage (rectum) using a special microscope. There are usually no incisions or external scars either in the abdomen or down below.



What is it used for?

The commonest use is to remove benign polyps from the rectum which cannot be removed any way other than with a major operation. Previously, difficult or awkward polyps in the rectum were either partially treated by burning or scraping away or had to be treated by major surgery to remove the rectum. This operation means that more of these polyps can be removed completely without major surgery.

Occasionally it is used to remove small cancers from the rectum without relying on major surgery either because the cancer is very early or because the operation is safer than major surgery.

What should I expect before the operation?

The back passage needs to be completely empty for the operation to be performed. You may have to take fluid preparation the night before surgery or the back passage may be cleared out using 1 or 2 enemas the day of the surgery.

What should I expect after the operation?

You are likely to stay in hospital 1 or 2 days after the operation.

- There may be a tube left in the back passage on the first day to help clear excess secretions. This will be removed by the nurses.
- There is very little pain after most of this surgery. Inflammation in the rectum where the surgery has been performed may cause a discomfort in the back passage but you should be able to get up and about very soon after the surgery.
- A temperature is common after the operation and a course of antibiotics by mouth is routinely used.

What complications may occur?

Bleeding – a bit of bleeding from the site of surgery often happens up to 2 days afterwards. It is almost always stops by itself without further surgery. Occasionally it is necessary to stop the bleeding with another minor operation.

Pelvic inflammation – the raw area in the rectum where the polyp has been removed can lead to inflammation around the back passage. This is usually treated by a longer course of antibiotics and hospital observation but rarely causes serious problems. **If you suffer marked pain in the lower abdomen, back passage or low back, or feel unwell once discharged from hospital, these can be signs of infection developing. You should either see your doctor or consult the hospital promptly** taking this leaflet with you.

Incontinence – You may experience slight staining of underwear and seepage of mucus for a little while after the operation and at home. This is not uncommon and is due to the gentle stretching of the tail end (anus) during the operation. This almost always comes back to normal without any treatment

Major surgery – sometimes it is not possible to complete the operation using the TEMS procedure. Very occasionally this means us using conventional major surgery to remove the polyp. If this is a possibility it will be discussed with you before the operation by the surgeon.



*Transanal
Endoscopic
MicroSurgery
(TEMS)*

Patient Information

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