

Types of Lung Surgery

Treatment for lung disease will depend on certain factors such as the type, size and location of the disease and your overall health. Surgery may be done as part of the treatment plan.

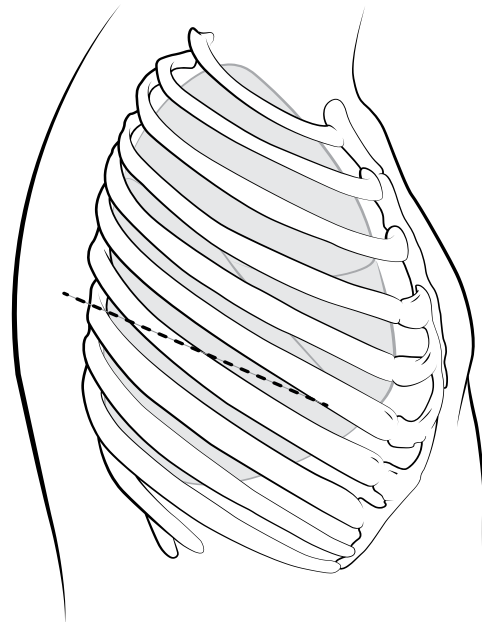
Before surgery, you may be scheduled for some medical tests. These may include blood tests, x-rays, an electrocardiogram (EKG) or other tests to check your heart. You may also need to meet with an anesthesiologist for a history and physical before surgery.

What are the different ways a lung surgery can be done?

Lung surgery is done to repair or remove lung tissue. Here are the different methods the lung surgery may be done.

Thoracotomy

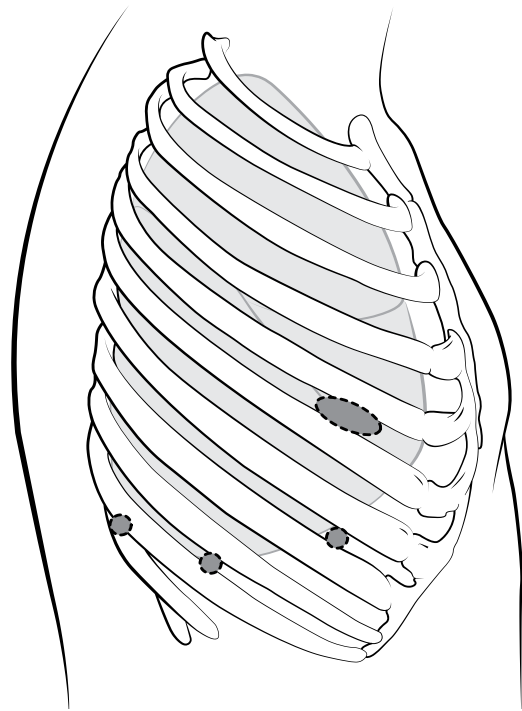
Thoracotomy is also known as an “open surgery”. A long incision (cut) is made in the chest. The incision may go under your arm and around to your back. This type of surgery may be done due to the size and location of the lung disease or if there is old scar tissue from other chest surgery or radiation treatment.



This handout is for informational purposes only. Talk with your doctor or health care team if you have any questions about your care.

Video Assisted Thoracoscopic Surgery (VATS)

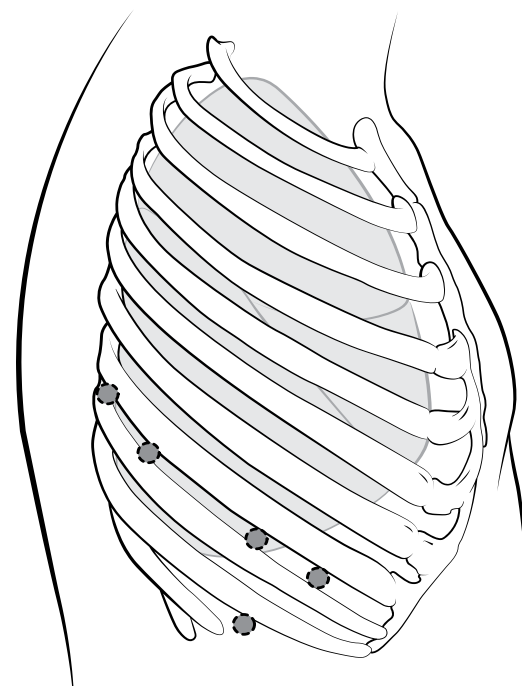
VATS is a type of minimally invasive surgery. To do this type of surgery, your doctor will make small incisions on the chest. Special surgical tools and a thoracoscope (tube with a camera and light) are passed through the incisions. This lets the doctor see your lungs and other tissues inside your chest. This surgery usually involves less pain, a shorter hospital stay, and faster recovery than the open lung surgery.



Robotic Assisted Lung Surgery

A robotic system allows your doctor to do surgery in a less invasive way. This is called minimally invasive surgery and involves less pain, a shorter hospital stay and faster recovery. The robotic surgical system is made up of 3 major parts:

- A high definition 3-D camera that lets the surgeon view the chest area to be worked on inside the body.
- Tiny robotic arms with small surgical tools are passed through small incisions in your chest. The surgeon controls the robotic arms to do the surgery.
- A special worktable where the surgeon controls the camera, the robotic arms and surgical tools.

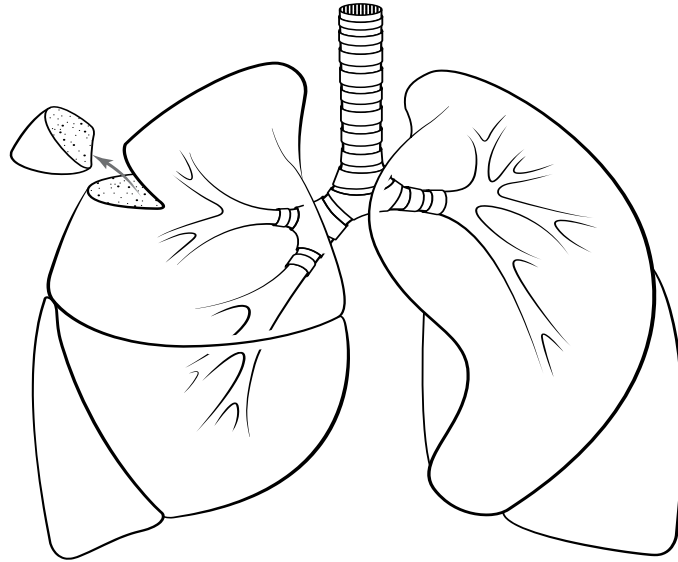


What are the different types of lung surgery?

Here are the different types of surgeries that can be done to remove part or all of the lung.

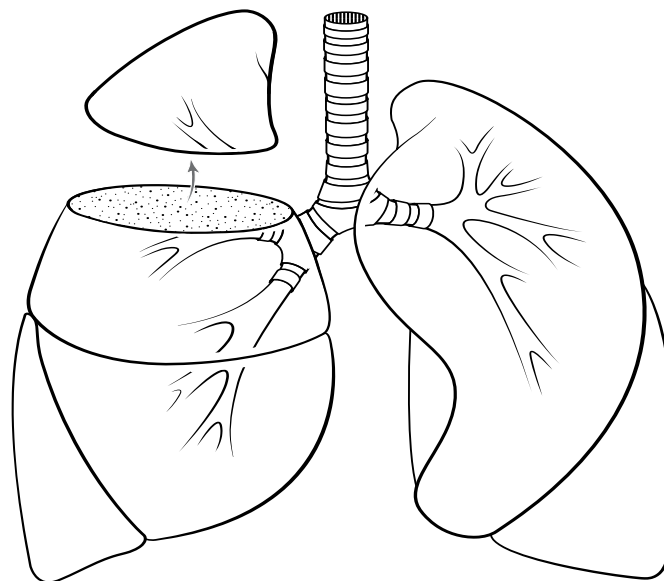
Wedge Resection

Only a small part of the lung is removed. The doctor will take a small triangle-shaped piece of lung. A small area of healthy tissue around the diseased lung may also be removed.



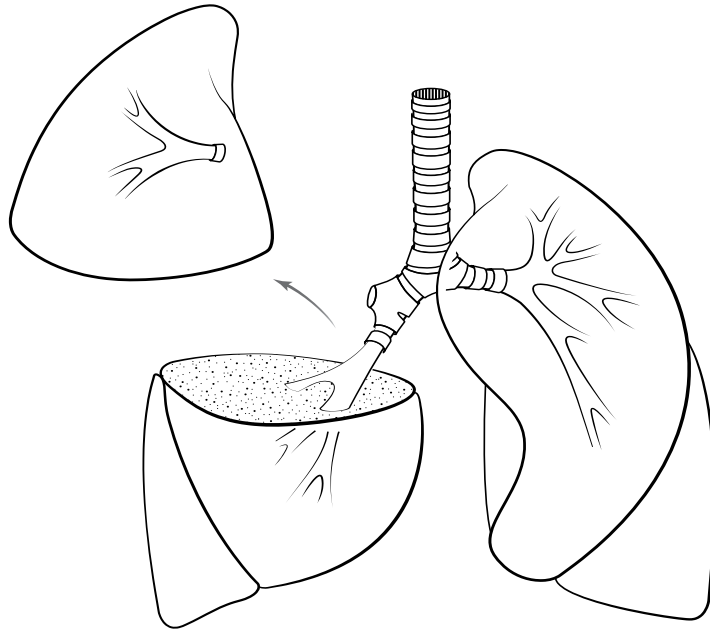
Segmentectomy

The lung has multiple segments, which are smaller than lobes. A segmentectomy removes one or more of these segments from the lung that has the disease. Your lungs can still function with tissue that remains after surgery.



Lobectomy

The right lung has three lobes and the left lung has two lobes. A lobectomy removes one or more lobes from the lung that has the disease. Your lungs can still function with the lobes that remain after surgery.



Pneumonectomy

This is surgery to remove an entire lung. This may be done if the diseased part of the lung cannot be removed by lobectomy.

