

# ELAP (EXTRALEVATOR ABDOMINAL PERINEAL RESECTION)

This is performed to treat cancer of the rectum when the cancer is very near or affects the anal sphincter muscles. The procedure involves removing the anus, rectum and associated pelvic floor muscles, along with part of the sigmoid colon. The anus is then closed and a permanent colostomy is formed. An ELAP has two parts to it: an **abdominal part**, which is almost always planned as a minimally invasive (laparoscopic or robotic) approach and a **perineal part**, which is performed using an open approach. The perineal part of the surgery will involve a plastic surgeon and will include taking a flap of healthy tissue (usually from the buttocks) which is grafted around the perineum. This operation although done in two parts is a single operation.