

# Tips and tricks for ileostomy closure after diverting ileostomy for gynecological cancer surgery

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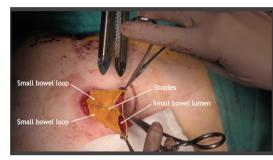
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Accepted 27 December 2022 Published Online First 12 January 2023 Diverting loop ileostomy is a surgical procedure that can be used for gynecological malignancies. The main indications for this technique are to protect a distal anastomosis after bowel resection, in the event of an anastomotic leak if a previous ostomy was not done, or in the case of bowel obstruction due to tumorous compression or infiltration. Gynecologic oncologic surgeons need to be comfortable with this surgical technique, but also with ileostomy reversal.

In this surgical video (Video 1), we show the ileostomy closure technique using multiple video sequences from four patients who previously underwent a diverting ileostomy during gynecologic cancer surgery. The surgeries were performed in three referral centers for gynecological malignancies by multidisciplinary teams, including digestive surgeons and gynecologic oncologic surgeons. We standardized the technique in 10 consecutive steps, giving alternatives in some of them (Figure 1).

We divided the procedure in the following steps:



**Figure 1** Side-to-side ileal anastomosis for diverting ileostomy closure.

Step 1: Skin incision

Step2: Subcutaneous tissue dissection

Step 3: Fascia and muscle dissection

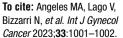
Step 4: Liberation of intestinal adhesions

Step 5: Anastomosis

Step 6: Reintroduction in the abdominal cavity

Step 7: Intra-abdominal drainage (optional)





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## Video article

Step 8: Fascia closure

Step 9: Mesh placement (optional)

Step 10: Skin closure

To summarize, we propose a stepwise standardized technique for diverting ileostomy closure, to enhance the learning curve for gynecologic oncologic surgeons. It is also essential to know how to identify and manage postoperative complications associated with this technique, such as ileus, anastomotic leak, surgical site infection, and incisional hernia. During this video, we present some tips and tricks on how to decrease the risk of occurrence of these complications. 4

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**Correction notice** This article has been corrected since it was first published to add affiliation 3

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