

INFORMATION FOR CALIFORNIA HERNIA SPECIALISTS RESEARCH PATIENTS

Dr. Harris participates in the Americas Hernia Society Quality Collaborative (AHSQC). This information sheet tells you how his participation aims to improve care for you and many other patients with hernias.

- **What is the Americas Hernia Society Quality Collaborative (AHSQC)?**
->The AHSQC is a large group of surgeons with a specific interest in caring for patients with hernias. This unique group is committed to improving the quality of care for all patients who undergo hernia surgery.
- **How does it work?**
->During the routine care of your hernia, your surgeon collects information about you, your hernia, and how you do after hernia surgery. This information is kept strictly confidential.
->Anonymous information is then combined from hundreds (or thousands) of hernia patients like you and the AHSQC reviews this information to determine how best to care for you and other patients.
- **How does this benefit patients like me?**
->The information gathered from many surgeons and patients is much better than information a single surgeon has about hernias.
->This information is used to improve the quality of care by finding the best ways to minimize complications, pain, and the chance of your hernia coming back.
- **What can I do to help?**
->A very important part of your surgeon's care of you and of the AHSQC is finding out how your abdominal wall affects *your* life before and after hernia surgery.
->Your surgeon will ask for your email address and you will be sent a confidential survey to complete. You may be asked to complete this survey a few times over the next several months which helps your surgeon and the AHSQC see how you do over time.
->Should you have any questions, your surgeon can help provide answers to you. You can also visit www.ahsqc.org.

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