

Cynthia Bowers (CBSnews correspondent): What's next in the operating room? Procedures that require virtually no incision at all. I'm Cynthia Bowers.

It's called NOTES (natural orifice transluminal endoscopic surgery), a new way to perform routine operations.

Albert: I wasn't afraid. The doctor made me feel really good.

Bowers: Albert Pably Hugo of Chicago was surprised when doctors told him there was a new way to remove his gallbladder⁽¹⁾.

Albert: They were going to go down my throat into my stomach, make an incision, remove the gallbladder, take it back out to my mouth.

Bowers: Dr Eric Hungness at Northwestern Memorial Hospital (Chicago) is among the first US surgeons to perform the high-tech procedure.

Dr E. Hungness: So, instead of making any incisions on the outside of the body, what we'll do is we put instruments through the mouth or through another natural orifice and do an operation that way.

Bowers: He slid the slender⁽²⁾ tube down Albert's throat, then used handgrips⁽³⁾ to control the tools inside, a camera and a tiny sewing kit⁽⁴⁾ complete with a needle and scissors.

Albert: Everything happens so fast, you don't have time to be scared.

Bowers: Because the doctors didn't have to make any large incisions, Albert was back on his feet in just a couple of days.

Albert: I felt good and I didn't suffer and I didn't take painkillers for more than three days.

Bowers: Although still in its infancy, the new technique is considered one of the most exciting medical breakthroughs in decades.

Cynthia Bowers, CBSnews.

Lexical helpline:

1. **the gallbladder:** the organ below the liver where bile is stored
2. **slender:** thin and narrow
3. **handgrips:** parts that can be held with the hands
4. **a sewing kit:** needle and thread used to join or repair material