



The ileostomy & internal pouch

Support Group

Registered Charity

Pouch Surgery Experiences – Charlotte Holland

Hi my name is Charlotte. I am 19 years old and have been a pouchie for five months now. I had my pouch surgery on July 5th this year. I needed to have the surgery due to FAP, which I inherited from my Mom who nearly died because of it.

I was fortunate enough to be able to have my large intestine removed and the pouch formed and attached in just one operation. Though this may sound better than having it in two or three operations I was actually very ill afterwards due to the way my body reacted. I am glad that it was done in one operation though because I'm the worlds biggest wuss! It also meant that I wouldn't need an ileostomy though I'm sure I could have coped if I did have one.

I was admitted to hospital twice after being initially discharged. The first time due to being discharged too early and the second admission was due to pouchitis, which was a very unpleasant experience.

My wound also weeped for five weeks after the surgery so I had to have a District Nurse in to pack it and change the dressings every day.

I have recently been in hospital again due to a small intestinal blockage - another very unpleasant experience.

However, after all that, I am pleased to tell you that I am now very well. My wound healed very quickly after it had stopped weeping. The pouch has settled down quite a lot already. It works better than I ever imagined it would. I only need to empty it 3-4 times a day now which is a big improvement considering I had to empty it every hour when my pouch was first active. It is really great that my pouch works so well because I have to admit that I feared the worst. It is still early days but so far I regard my surgery as being successful. I am really grateful to my surgeon (who has since retired) and his team and I'll never look back.

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