**Indications for Abdominal Laparotomy**

**Indication for Left Flank approach:**

1. General exploratory laparotomy, particularly if a problem amenable to treatment from the left side is suspected
2. Rumentomy
3. Left-flank abomasopexy
4. Cesarean section when the viable fetus is only moderately oversized and the cow is capable of enduring the surgery in the standing position.

**Indications for Right Flank approach:**

1. Exploratory laparotomy when a problem amenable to treatment from the right side is suspected
2. Omentopexy or pyloro-omentopexy
3. Surgical correction of small intestinal, cecal, and colonic conditions
4. Cesarean section when, because of rumenal distention or fetal positioning, removal of the calf by a left-flank approach would be difficult or when hydrops amnii or allantois is present.
5. Right-flank laparotomy is also chosen when the problem is unknown and a full exploratory is needed.