Colic Surgery

Pre-op

To perform a colic surgery, the patient is anesthetized and placed on its back so that the abdomen can be accessed. The entire abdomen is clipped to removed hair and scrubbed using sterile technique. As with any surgery, the area is draped sterilely by the surgeon and a longitudinal incision is made on midline starting near the umbilical scar (belly button).

Intra op

For cases requiring surgery, the surgical approach to the abdomen is almost always via a ventral midline incision (underside of the abdomen), and has to be performed under a general anaesthetic with the horse on their backs. All cases are given intravenous fluids, antibiotics, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and, often, intestinal stimulants.

