

Minimally invasive surgery has been used for several decades by surgeons. Over the past decade, this technology has been utilized in many other types of surgery. There are currently many surgical procedures that can be done through these small portals, which in the past required large incisions.

The advantage of minimally invasive surgery is due to the fact that a smaller incision is required which results in minimal muscle damage to the patient. When performed properly, this type of surgery can lead to less scarring, less pain, less blood loss, and hopefully a shorter hospital stay and quicker postoperative recovery. In orthopaedic surgery, minimal invasive surgery is accomplished with the aid of specially designed instruments, which aid in visualization of the surgical field. Typically, this is done with retractors, which allow the surgeon to make a small incision but visualize a larger area beneath this small incision.