



KAREN

Gastrointestinal Oncology patient

Karen, a 33-year old woman, came into Hospital Pablo Tobón Uribe on April 28, 2020, through our outpatient emergency service after a series of external diagnostic tests with results showing abnormalities in her digestive system. She stated: "Several people had recommended the Hospital's gastroenterologists to me and that was why I decided to come here"

Doctor Jaime Montoya, who is an attending gastroenterologist and oncologist at our Hospital, was in charge of conducting the necessary exams and procedures to offer Karen a timely diagnosis, which allowed identifying a case of stomach cancer.

With the support of a highly qualified interdisciplinary team, Karen underwent a diagnostic laparoscopy exam, which is a procedure that works as a supplement to conduct the full staging of the gastric cancer case, thus enabling the examination of the abdominal cavity, as well as establishing the resectability of the tumors, with the aim of assessing the feasibility of a surgery as a treatment alternative for the pathology.

"This exam can be conducted on an outpatient basis under general anesthesia, and it consists in inserting a laparoscope with a camera into the patient's body through very small incisions on the navel (approximately 2 to 5 millimeters), which translates into a significantly quicker recovery and a lower level of pain for the patient," explained Doctor Montoya.

The laparoscopy procedure entails a great benefit because it allows ruling out the presence of malignant cells that are not observable by means of a tomography or any other diagnostic method.

Thanks to this minimally invasive procedure, Karen is currently receiving an adequate and timely treatment for her disease, and has already showed progressive improvements in terms of her health and quality of life. "There were no difficulties during the procedure and my healing process has gone really well so far. I have felt very calm and confident, and the constant support of Hospital Pablo Tobón Uribe's entire medical team has been remarkable," claimed Karen.