General Surgery can often be a vague and confusing term for patients. The specialty refers to surgery that focuses primarily on the abdominal organs of the body. Conditions affecting the gallbladder, stomach and intestinal disorders, colon cancer, and bile duct stone removal would all fall under the umbrella of General Surgery.

The Otsego Memorial Hospital (OMH) General Surgery team of Wendy Frye, MD, John Moffat, MD, and James Shurlow, DO, provide high quality patient care when performing any general surgery procedure. All OMH providers work to engage patients in their treatment process.

Scott Lampert of Gaylord was a patient of Dr. Moffat when he started experiencing pain in his chest. “All of a sudden, I had a pain that stopped me in the middle of a sentence. They thought I was having a heart attack,” says Scott.

What was initially thought to be a heart attack was diagnosed by Dr. Moffat as gallstones blocking Scott’s bile duct. Scott was able to get his gallbladder removed and the gallstones cleared from the bile duct all in one surgery. He attributes Dr. Moffat and OMH for his quick recovery after surgery. “The surgery was done on a Tuesday, I was at a social event on Friday, and I was playing hockey by Sunday.”

Nancy Collins of Central Lake, a colonoscopy patient, visited Dr. Frye and, like Scott, was impressed with the speed and precision of the hospital and the physicians. “Before I even left the hospital after having the colonoscopy, [Dr. Frye] came in and she showed me pictures of [the colon cancer] in the recovery room,” says Nancy.

Dr. Frye was able to act quickly on the results of Nancy’s procedure and perform a surgery to remove the cancerous part of Nancy’s colon. “I put my life in her hands. I would absolutely say go to Dr. Frye,” says Nancy.

Dr. Frye actively involved Vance in his care and explained to him about the surgery that he needed to repair his hernia. “He took the time to explain everything to me – the good, the bad, what could happen – and he made me feel comfortable,” says Vance.

Dr. Shurlow works with his patients on their care and involves them because it’s important in building a relationship of trust with his patients. Dr. Shurlow performed Vance’s surgery laparoscopically, which is a minimally invasive technique where the surgeon makes a small incision and uses a high definition camera to see while performing the surgery. According to Dr. Shurlow, a laparoscopic procedure comes with a number of benefits, including less pain, quicker recovery time, and less scarring for the patient. All three of the General Surgeons at OMH perform laparoscopic procedures.

After surgery, Dr. Shurlow called Vance to follow-up on his procedure, something Vance was very appreciative of. “I’d recommend OMH for the doctors, the care, and the way they make you feel at ease. That’s why I would recommend them to anyone,” says Vance, “It was worth the drive.”

For more information on the General Surgery department at OMH, visit www.myomh.org/general-surgery. To schedule an appointment, call toll-free at (888) 532-3958.

The OMH General Surgery office is located in Suite 120 inside the OMH Professional Medical Building at 829 N. Center Avenue in Gaylord, Michigan.