LAST OCTOBER Rebecca Lodge, 37, of Euless, started feeling a lot of pain and discomfort in her stomach. Testing uncovered a mass in her stomach that was easily treated. But doctors also noticed a spot on her kidney.

Watching the spot for changes was one option, but Lodge, who had ovarian cancer as a teenager, decided to have it removed.

NEW TECHNIQUES, FASTER RECOVERY
In January, surgeons operated with minimally invasive techniques to remove the spot from her kidney. These new techniques helped speed her to a full recovery.

“Traditionally, the entire kidney was removed for a small kidney tumor,” explains Bryan Bruner, MD, a urologist on the medical staff at Baylor Regional Medical Center at Grapevine. “Now, it’s standard to remove the cancerous part and spare the rest of the kidney.”

During surgery, doctors used to clamp off the blood supply to the entire kidney. In a new development that worked well for Lodge, doctors use fluorescent imaging to identify the blood supply in the region of the tumor, then clamp off only the blood supply in that area, allowing the rest of the kidney to circulate blood normally during the procedure.

REDUCED RISK
“With the blood flowing throughout the rest of the normal kidney and just the part with cancer clamped off, there’s less risk of damaging the normal kidney,” says Dr. Bruner.

Lodge was back to work as a production coordinator for a catalog company two weeks after her surgery. Within several months, testing showed that her kidney function was fine, she says.

Treatment Tailored to You
To find out about the advanced surgical techniques and options at Baylor Grapevine, visit BaylorHealth.com/Grapevine or call 1.800.4BAYLOR.

Rebecca Lodge has been able to get back to the things she loves, including hanging out with friends and traveling.