We're using the da Vinci® Robotic Surgical System to help urologic and gynecologic patients get back to their lives faster.

Despite its name, robotic surgery is actually performed by highly experienced, specially trained surgeons. They are assisted by an integrated system of advanced computer and robotic technologies.

The da Vinci system gives St. Joseph's surgeons the advantage when performing minimally invasive surgery for the treatment of cancers and other conditions. It allows the physician to make precise, delicate motions.

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The robot is completely controlled by the surgeon, and allows for greater precision than the human hand can achieve on its own. A da Vinci surgery is less invasive — which means less pain, blood loss and scarring, and a faster return to normal daily activities.

How does my surgeon use the da Vinci?

To operate using the da Vinci, your surgeon makes tiny incisions in your body and inserts miniaturized instruments and a high-definition three-dimensional camera. Then, from a nearby

console, your surgeon manipulates those instruments to perform the operation.

During a da Vinci procedure, your surgeon uses master controls to manipulate the instruments, and the instruments translate your surgeon's movements into precise movements inside your body. Your surgeon is in control the whole time; the surgical system responds to the input given.

The Benefits of da Vinci Surgery

Shorter hospital stay

Less risk of infection

Less blood loss and fewer blood transfusions

Less pain faster recovery

Quicker return to daily routine

Your surgeon has greater range of motion and dexterity

Your surgeon sees a highly magnified, high-resolution image of the operating field

Your surgeon has better access to the area being operated on

Of course, as with any medical treatment, there is no guarantee. Outcomes differ from patient to patient and from operation to operation.

What can doctors treat using the da Vinci Robotic Surgical System?

Many procedures that were traditionally performed with open surgery can now be done using the less invasive da Vinci procedure. Robotic surgical procedures are used at St. Joseph's to treat the following:

Cardiology

- Cornonary artery disease

Urology

- Prostrate Cancer
- Ureteropelvic junction (UPJ) obstruction
- Bladder cancer
- Kidney cancer
- Vesicoureteral reflux

Gynecology

- Endometriosis/ adenomyosis
- Excessive menstrual bleeding
- Uterine fibroids
- Uterine prolapse cancer
- Cancer

Frequently Asked Questions

How does the surgeon operate during a da Vinci surgery?

During a da Vinci surgery, your surgeon "directs" the surgery from nearby, but does not stand over you as in a traditional surgery. While each surgery is different, here are the general steps to a da Vinci surgery:

Your surgeon makes tiny (one- to two-centimeter-long) incisions in your body.

The miniature robotic instruments and a powerful camera are inserted into your body.

Your surgeon then sits at a nearby console (a large computer) to direct the procedure. At the console, the area of operation can be seen highly magnified, with excellent resolution.

Sitting at the console, your surgeon manipulates the controls.

The instruments respond to these movements, and translate them into precise, real-time movements inside your body.

The robotic devices, which have greater dexterity and range of motion than a human, allow your surgeon to successfully make precise, delicate motions.

How does the surgeon see what he or she is doing?

A camera inside your body sends real-time images to your surgeon, seated at a console. In fact,

the images your surgeon sees using da Vinci are more highly magnified, with a sharper resolution, then what he or she would see standing over you.

How did the da Vinci Surgical System get its name?

For many, "da Vinci" conjures up the famous "Mona Lisa," or perhaps a bestselling novel. However, Leonardo da Vinci is also credited with inventing the very first robot. In addition, he was well known for his intricate, anatomically correct drawings of the human body. Similarly, the da Vinci Surgical System provides surgeons with an intricate, precise view of the human body during the operation.

Does the da Vinci operate by itself?

The da Vinci system cannot "think" on its own. It only responds to your surgeon's precise hand and finger movements. Your surgeon is in the operating room, directing the procedure the entire time.

What conditions can be treated using the da Vinci?

There are many conditions that have been successfully treated using da Vinci surgery. These include:

- Bladder cancer
- Colorectal cancer
- Coronary artery disease
- Endometriosis
- Gynecologic cancer
- Heavy uterine bleeding
- Kidney disorders/kidney cancer

- Mitral valve prolapse
- Obesity
- Prostate cancer
- Throat cancer
- Thyroid cancer
- Uterine fibroids
- Uterine prolapse

Can any doctor use the da Vinci?

Without proper training, a doctor cannot simply walk into an operating room and direct a robotic surgery. However, any doctor can be successfully trained in the da Vinci Surgical System.

Have more questions?

Please call 973.754.2460 to contact us directly with any questions or concerns you might have.

For more information and to view videos of the da Vinci Surgical System, please click here .