

Robotic Surgery Less Invasive for Patients

Instead of large incisions and long recoveries, more patients are finding they have options when it comes to surgery. Surgeons in many specialty areas are able to offer their patients the choice of robotic surgery. The technique uses smaller incisions and can speed healing times.

“Robotic surgery is at the forefront of all minimally invasive surgery,” says urologist Omar Benitez, M.D.

Lee Memorial Health System offers robotic surgery—using a device called the da Vinci—for surgeries in the areas of urology, gynecology, orthopedics, and thoracic and colorectal procedures.

Dr. Benitez says that patients do not notice a difference in the treatment protocols leading up to the surgery, but feel the effects when they wake up.

“Patients go home the next day,” he says. “The pain is minimal. Some patients do not require pain medication.”

Obstetrician/gynecologist Melissa Lee, M.D., has used the da Vinci for several types of surgery. Uses can include hysterectomies, myomectomies for treatment of fibroids, ovarian surgeries, treatment of endometriosis, and treatment of pelvic prolapse and infertility.

“The da Vinci is just a tool to help make minimally invasive surgery easier,” Dr. Lee says. “It can be used

for cases ranging from the simple to the complex and is often a major asset in a complex surgical case. Eligibility is based on the patient’s health status and how extensive the case is expected to be.”

Surgeons also benefit because the device allows them greater access to the organ or tissue they need to see.

“The robotic camera gives surgeons a 3D view during surgery, rather than the 2D view with traditional laparoscopy,” Dr. Lee says. “This difference allows for depth perception which is lost with traditional laparoscopy. The robotic instruments can better imitate the same motions of a surgeon’s hands and wrists. These differences make it a tremendous tool when it comes to very challenging cases that would have previously been done in a traditional, open fashion.”

Benefits of robotic surgery:

- Decreases pain for a quicker recovery
- Offers superior visualization of target organ, which minimizes trauma of the surrounding tissue



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Robotic arm
(actual size shown)



To view a video about robotic surgery,
go to vimeo.com/23542085