

My Experience is your guarantee.

ROBOTIC PROSTATECTOMIES Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is the Prostate? The prostate gland, a key part of the male reproductive system, is linked closely with the urinary system. It is a small gland that secretes much of the liquid portion of semen, the milky fluid that transports sperm through the penis during ejaculation. The prostate is located just beneath the bladder, where urine is stored, and in front of the rectum. It encircles a section of the urethra.

2. What is Prostate cancer? Cancer of the prostate, the male reproductive gland located below the bladder & in front of the rectum. Early prostate cancer usually causes no symptoms and is found by a PSA test and/or DRE. Some advanced prostate cancers can slow or weaken your urinary stream or make you need to urinate more often.

3. What is Prostatectomy? Surgery to remove the prostate in order to treat and prevent the reoccurrence of prostate cancer. A secondary goal of prostatectomy is early return of urinary continence. Where applicable, a third goal is early return of sexual potency.

4. What is Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS)? Minimally invasive surgery (also known as MIS, minimal access, keyhole surgery, laparoscopic, or endoscopic surgery) is intended to eliminate the most physically and emotionally traumatic elements of conventional open surgery, including pain and lengthy recovery. Advances in MIS allow surgeons access to affected tissues and organs through very small incisions. MIS is surgery typically performed through small incisions, or operating ports, rather than large incisions, resulting in potentially shorter recovery times, fewer complications, reduced hospitalization costs and reduced trauma to the patient.

5. Why do we need a new way to do minimally invasive surgery? Despite the widespread use of minimally invasive or laparoscopic surgery in today's hospitals, adoption of laparoscopic techniques, for the most part, has been limited to a few routine procedures. This is due mostly to the limited capabilities of traditional laparoscopic technology, including standard video and rigid instruments, which surgeons must rely on to operate through small incisions.

In traditional open surgery, the physician makes a long incision and then widens it to access the anatomy. In traditional minimally invasive surgery – which is widely used for routine procedures -- the surgeon operates using rigid, hand-operated instruments, which are passed through small incisions and views the anatomy on a standard video monitor. Neither this laparoscopic instrumentation nor the video monitor can provide the surgeon with the excellent visualization needed to perform complex surgery like valve repair or nerve-sparing prostatectomy.

6. What are the benefits of *da Vinci* Surgery compared with traditional methods of surgery? Some of the major benefits experienced by surgeons using the *da Vinci* Surgical System over traditional approaches have been greater surgical precision, increased range of motion, improved dexterity, enhanced visualization and improved access. Benefits experienced

by patients may include a shorter hospital stay, less pain, less risk of infection, less blood loss, fewer transfusions, less scarring, faster recovery and a quicker return to normal daily activities. None of these benefits can be guaranteed, as surgery is necessarily both patient- and procedure-specific.

7. What is Robot-assisted or robotic surgery? Surgery performed using the assistance of robotic technologies. Existing systems like *da Vinci* are designed to provide surgeons with enhanced capabilities rather than designed to operate on their own.

8. Where is the *da Vinci* Surgical System being used now? Currently, The *da Vinci* Surgical System is being used in hundreds of locations worldwide, in major centers in the United States, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, India, Japan, the Netherlands, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Australia and Turkey.

9. Has the *da Vinci* Surgical System been cleared by the FDA? The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has cleared the *da Vinci* Surgical System for a wide range of procedures. Please see the [FDA Clearance](#) page for specific clearances and representative uses.

10. Is *da Vinci* Surgery covered by insurance? *da Vinci* Surgery is categorized as robot-assisted minimally invasive surgery, so any insurance that covers minimally invasive surgery generally covers *da Vinci* Surgery. This is true for widely held insurance plans like Medicare. It is important to note that your coverage will depend on your plan and benefits package.

11. Will the *da Vinci* Surgical System make the surgeon unnecessary? On the contrary, the *da Vinci* System enables surgeons to be more precise, advancing their technique and enhancing their capability in performing complex minimally invasive surgery. The System replicates the surgeon's movements in real time. It cannot be programmed, nor can it make decisions on its own to move in any way or perform any type of surgical maneuver without the surgeon's input.

12. Is a surgeon using the *da Vinci* Surgical System operating in "virtual reality"? Although seated at a console a few feet away from the patient, the surgeon views an actual image of the surgical field while operating in real-time, through tiny incisions, using miniaturized, wristed instruments. At no time does the surgeon see a virtual image or program/command the system to perform any maneuver on its own/outside of the surgeon's direct, real-time control.

13. Is this telesurgery? Can you operate over long distances? The *da Vinci* Surgical System can theoretically be used to operate over long distances. This capability, however, is not the primary focus of the company and thus is not available with the current *da Vinci* Surgical System.

14. While using the *da Vinci* Surgical System, can the surgeon feel anything inside the patient's chest or abdomen? The system relays some force feedback sensations from the operative field back to the surgeon throughout the procedure. This force feedback provides a substitute for tactile sensation and is augmented by the enhanced vision provided by the high-resolution 3D view.

15. Why is it called the *da Vinci*® Surgical System? The product is called "*da Vinci*" in part because Leonardo *da Vinci* invented the first robot. He also used unparalleled anatomical accuracy and three-dimensional details to bring his masterpieces to life. The *da Vinci* Surgical System similarly provides physicians with such enhanced detail and precision that the System can simulate an open surgical environment while allowing operation through tiny incisions.

General Information on Prostate Cancer:

Prostate cancer is a disease in which malignant (cancer) cells form in the tissues of the prostate. The prostate is a gland in the male reproductive system located just below the bladder and in front of the rectum. It is about the size of a walnut and surrounds the urethra (the tube that

empties urine from the bladder). The prostate gland produces fluid that makes up part of the semen.

Approximately 16% of American men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer sometime in their life. Treatment options and prognosis depend on the stage of the cancer, the Gleason score, and the patient's age and general health. With greater public awareness, early detection is on the rise and mortality rates are declining. Additionally, new advances in medical technology are enabling cancer victims to go on to live active and productive lives after their treatment. Consult with your doctor for advice on the options that are available to treat your specific condition.

Why consider Robotic Prostatectomy using da Vinci?

One of the most common treatments for prostate cancer involves the surgical removal of the prostate gland, known as radical prostatectomy. Traditional radical prostatectomy requires a large, 8-10 inch incision. This open surgery commonly results in substantial blood loss, a lengthy and uncomfortable recovery and the risk of impotence and incontinence.

If your doctor recommends surgery to treat your prostate cancer, you may be a candidate for a new, less-invasive surgical procedure called da Vinci Prostatectomy. The da Vinci Prostatectomy (dVP) performed with the da Vinci Surgical System represents the fastest growing treatment for prostate cancer today.

da Vinci Prostatectomy incorporates a state-of-the-art surgical system that helps your surgeon see vital anatomical structures more clearly and to perform a more precise surgical procedure.

For most patients, dVP offers substantially less pain and a much shorter recovery than traditional prostate surgery. As a minimally invasive procedure, da Vinci Prostatectomy can offer numerous potential benefits over open prostatectomy including:

- Shorter hospital stay
- Less pain
- Less risk of infection
- Less blood loss and transfusions
- Less scarring
- Faster recovery
- Quicker return to normal activities

Moreover, recent studies suggest that dVP may offer improved cancer control and a lower incidence of impotence and urinary incontinence. As with any surgical procedure none of these benefits can be guaranteed as surgery is both patient and procedure dependent.