

New Robot Will Assist Physicians in Performing Gynecological Surgeries

St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center recently performed the hospital's first da Vinci surgical procedure. The surgical robot, which is widely used to treat prostate cancer, is also used for gynecological surgeries at St. Joseph's. The da Vinci Surgical System is a minimally invasive option for complex surgeries. It serves as an alternative to traditional open surgeries and laparoscopy procedures.

Most gynecological surgeries and conditions including hysterectomies, endometriosis and cancers can be treated with the use of the da Vinci robot. Women who undergo the procedure will experience less pain and scarring, fewer complications, a shorter hospital stay and a quicker return to daily activities than they would with the traditional surgery.

"This approach is much less invasive yet more precise than other surgeries," says Michael Hibner, M.D., director of gynecological surgery at St. Joseph's. "Patients who undergo the da Vinci surgery will make a quicker recovery with less pain."

The robotic-assisted surgery offers more precision than most laparoscopic surgical approaches and gives surgeons 3-D images. This provides less threat to the surrounding tissues and organs.

"The da Vinci allows surgeons to perform more complicated surgeries that otherwise would be done the traditional way because they are too difficult to take the laparoscopic approach," says Dr. Hibner.