Considering a Hysterectomy?

Learn more about virtually scarless surgery using da Vinci® Single-Site® technology.
Symptoms & Conditions:

Chronic Pain, Heavy Bleeding, Fibroids, Endometriosis, Adenomyosis, Pelvic Prolapse

Many benign (non-cancerous) conditions can affect a woman’s reproductive system, including the uterus, cervix, ovaries and fallopian tubes. Common benign conditions include: fibroids, which are growths in and/or around the uterus; endometriosis, which occurs when your uterine lining grows outside the uterus; adenomyosis, which occurs when your uterine lining grows into the wall of the uterus; and pelvic prolapse, which is the slipping of the uterus, vagina and/or bladder.

Gynecologic conditions can cause many different symptoms or no symptoms at all. Some of the more common symptoms may include: pelvic pain, heavy bleeding, irregular periods, fatigue, unusual bloating, pain during intercourse, and infertility.1,2

If your symptoms are severe, your doctor may suggest medicine, lifestyle changes or surgery. Surgical options will depend on your exact condition, symptoms and overall health.
Your doctor may recommend a hysterectomy (removal of your uterus and possibly ovaries and fallopian tubes). A hysterectomy is the second most common surgery among women in the United States. There are different ways to perform a hysterectomy, as detailed below. You should discuss all options with your doctor if he/she recommends a hysterectomy.
Single-Site®/Single Incision: Your uterus can be removed through a small incision in your belly button using single-incision traditional laparoscopy or da Vinci® Single-Site® Surgery. These procedures allow for virtually scarless results.**

Laparoscopy: Laparoscopic surgery is also minimally invasive. With traditional laparoscopy, your surgeon operates through a few small incisions using long instruments and a tiny camera to guide doctors during surgery. Another laparoscopic option is robotically-assisted da Vinci Surgery. Your uterus is also removed through a few small incisions (ports) in your abdomen. da Vinci technology provides your surgeon with enhanced vision, precision and control.*

Abdominal Hysterectomy: During an abdominal hysterectomy (open surgery), your uterus is removed through a large open incision. The incision must be large enough for your surgeon’s hands to fit inside your body and reach your organs.

Vaginal Hysterectomy: A vaginal hysterectomy is done through a cut in your vagina. The surgeon operates through this incision and closes it with stitches.

*Single-Site is available for benign conditions

**With minimally invasive surgery, there are various options for removing the uterus. Your surgeon will recommend the option he/she thinks is best for you.
With da Vinci Single-Site Surgery, doctors remove your uterus and possibly your ovaries and fallopian tubes through your belly button. Patients who choose da Vinci Single-Site Surgery experience virtually scarless results, similar to single incision traditional laparoscopy.

Early clinical data suggests da Vinci Single-Site Hysterectomy offers the following potential benefits:

- Low blood loss\(^3,4,5,6\)
- Low complication rate\(^3,4\)
- Low likelihood of blood transfusion\(^4\)
- Low chance of procedure converting to an abdominal procedure\(^4,5,6\)
- Short hospital stay\(^4,5\)
- Low post-operative pain\(^6\)

Risks & Considerations Related to Hysterectomy, Benign (removal of the uterus and possibly nearby organs): injury to the ureters (the ureters drain urine from the kidney into the bladder), vaginal cuff problems (scar tissue in vaginal incision, infection, bacterial skin infection, pooling/clotting of blood, incision opens or separates), injury to bladder (organ that holds urine), bowel injury, vaginal shortening, problems urinating (cannot empty bladder, urgent or frequent need to urinate, leaking urine, slow or weak stream), abnormal hole from the vagina into the urinary tract or rectum, vaginal tear or deep cut. Uterine tissue may contain unsuspected cancer. The cutting or morcellation of uterine tissue during surgery may spread cancer, and decrease the long-term survival of patients.

Important Information for Patients

Serious complications may occur in any surgery, including da Vinci\(^\circledR\) Surgery, up to and including death. Examples of serious or life-threatening complications, which may require prolonged and/or unexpected hospitalization and/or reoperation, include but are
not limited to, one or more of the following: injury to tissues/organs, bleeding, infection and internal scarring that can cause long-lasting dysfunction/pain. Risks of surgery also include the potential for equipment failure and/or human error. Individual surgical results may vary.

Risks specific to minimally invasive surgery, including da Vinci Surgery, include but are not limited to, one or more of the following: temporary pain/nerve injury associated with positioning; temporary pain/discomfort from the use of air or gas in the procedure; a longer operation and time under anesthesia and conversion to another surgical technique. If your doctor needs to convert the surgery to another surgical technique, this could result in a longer operative time, additional time under anesthesia, additional or larger incisions and/or increased complications.

Patients who are not candidates for non-robotic minimally invasive surgery are also not candidates for da Vinci® Surgery. Patients should talk to their doctor to decide if da Vinci Surgery is right for them. Patients and doctors should review all available information on non-surgical and surgical options in order to make an informed decision. For Important Safety Information, including surgical risks, indications, and considerations and contraindications for use, please also refer to www.davincisurgery.com/safety and www.intuitivesurgical.com.

da Vinci Surgery with Single-Site® Instruments is cleared for use in gallbladder removal, and for hysterectomy and ovary removal for benign conditions. Patients who are not candidates for non-robotic minimally invasive surgery are also not candidates for da Vinci Surgery, including da Vinci Surgery with Single-Site® Instruments. There may be an increased risk of incision-site hernia with single-incision surgery, including Single-Site surgery with da Vinci.

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The Enabling Technology: da Vinci® Surgical System with Single-Site® Technology

The da Vinci Surgical System is designed to provide surgeons with enhanced capabilities, including high-definition 3D vision and a magnified view. Your doctor controls the da Vinci System, which translates his or her hand movements into smaller, more precise movements of tiny instruments inside your body.

Though it is often called a “robot,” da Vinci cannot act on its own. Surgery is performed entirely by your doctor. Together, the da Vinci System and Single-Site® instruments allow your doctor to remove your uterus, fallopian tubes and/or ovaries through a single incision, similar to single incision traditional laparoscopy. As a result, you may be able to get back to life without the usual recovery that follows major surgery.
Your doctor is one of a growing number of surgeons worldwide offering da Vinci®, Single-Site® Surgery.

For more information and to find a da Vinci Surgeon nearest you, visit: www.daVinciSurgery.com