Your doctor is one of a growing number of surgeons worldwide offering da Vinci Surgery.

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

The Enabling Technology: da Vinci Surgical System

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, da Vinci technology allows your doctor to perform routine and complex procedures through just a few small openings, similar to traditional laparoscopy.

The da Vinci System has been used successfully worldwide in approximately 1.5 million various surgical procedures to date. da Vinci - changing the experience of surgery for people around the world.


Facing Benign Colorectal Surgery?

Learn about minimally invasive da Vinci Surgery

The Conditions: Diverticulitis, Ulcerative Colitis, Crohn's Disease, Rectal Prolapse

The colon and rectum are part of your large intestine. The main purpose of these organs is to process and pass waste from your body. There are several conditions that can affect your colon, such as: diverticulitis, ulcerative colitis, Crohn’s disease and rectal prolapse.

Diverticulitis is a condition in which a small pouch forms and inflames inside your colon. The most common symptom is abdominal pain. While diverticulitis has been linked to a low fiber diet, the exact cause is unknown. About 10% of people over the age of 40 have diverticulitis in the U.S. alone.1

Ulcerative colitis and Crohn’s disease are jointly known as inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). IBD causes the digestive tract to inflame. Symptoms may include: diarrhea, rectal bleeding, fever and weight loss. Five million people worldwide have IBD, but the exact cause is unknown.2

Rectal prolapse occurs when tissue lining the rectum falls into the anus. The condition is more common in the elderly, and is often linked to constipation.

The Surgery: Colorectal Surgery

Treatment options often depend on how severe your symptoms are, how many episodes you have experienced, your age and overall health. If medicine and lifestyle changes do not ease your symptoms, your doctor may recommend surgery.

There are several types of operations that can be performed on your colon. When doctors remove the affected part of your colon and join together the remaining healthy bowel, this is known as a colectomy or colon resection. Surgery on your right colon is called a right colectomy; surgery on your left colon is a left colectomy; and surgery on the sigmoid colon (lower left part of your colon before your rectum) is called a sigmoid colectomy. When your entire colon is removed, it is called a total colectomy. When your colon and rectum are removed, it is known as a total proctocolectomy with ileo-anal pouch. A small pouch is created from the ileum (end of the small intestine) to the anus, which replaces the rectum.

Colorectal procedures can also be performed using minimally invasive surgery (laparoscopy). This means your surgeon operates through a few small incisions in the abdomen using long-handled instruments and a tiny camera. The camera sends images to a video monitor in the operating room to guide your surgeon during the operation.

There is another minimally invasive surgical option for patients facing colorectal surgery: state-of-the-art da Vinci Surgery.

da Vinci Surgery: A Minimally Invasive Surgical Option

If your doctor recommends surgery for diverticulitis, ulcerative colitis, Crohn’s disease or rectal prolapse, ask about minimally invasive da Vinci Surgery.

Using the da Vinci System, your surgeon makes a few small incisions - similar to traditional laparoscopy. The da Vinci System features a magnified 3D HD vision system and tiny wristed instruments that bend and rotate far greater than the human wrist. These features enable surgeons to operate with enhanced vision, precision, dexterity and control.

As a result of da Vinci technology, da Vinci Colectomy offers the following potential benefits:

- Precise removal of cancerous tissue
- Low blood loss
- Quick return of bowel function
- Low rate of complications
- Low rate of converting to open surgery compared to traditional laparoscopy
- Short hospital stay
- Small incisions for minimal scarring

Risks & Considerations Related to Colectomy & da Vinci Surgery:

Potential risks of any colectomy procedure include:
- Intestinal fluid leakage
- Internal bleeding
- Bowel blockage
- Blocked lung artery
- Abscess
- Urinary problems
- Wound infection

Important Information for Patients:

All surgery presents risk, including da Vinci Surgery. Results, including cosmetic results, may vary. Serious complications may occur in any surgery, up to and including death. Examples of serious and life-threatening complications, which may require hospitalization, include injury to tissues or organs; bleeding; infection, and internal scarring that can cause long-lasting dysfunction or pain. Temporary pain or nerve injury has been linked to the inverted position often used during abdominal and pelvic surgery. Patients should understand that risks of surgery include potential for human error and potential for equipment failure. Risks specific to minimally invasive surgery may include: a longer operative time; the need to convert the procedure to other surgical techniques; the need for additional or larger incision sites; a longer operation or longer time under anesthesia than your surgeon originally predicts. Converting the procedure to open could mean a longer operative time, long time under anesthesia, and could lead to increased complications. Research suggests that there may be an increased risk of incision-site hernia with single-incision surgery. Patients who bleed easily, have abnormal blood clotting, are pregnant or morbidly obese are typically not candidates for minimally invasive surgery, including da Vinci Surgery. Other surgical approaches are available. Patients should review the risks associated with all surgical approaches. They should talk to their doctors about their surgical experience and to decide if da Vinci is right for them. For more complete information on surgical risks, safety and indications for use, please refer to http://www.davincisurgery.com/safety.

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