Facing a Hernia Repair?

Learn about minimally invasive *da Vinci* Surgery
The Condition:

Hernia

A hernia happens when part of an internal organ or tissue bulges through a hole or weak area in the belly wall (fascia).

The type of hernia you have depends on where it is and how it occurs:

- Ventral (incisional) hernias can occur through a scar after surgery in the abdomen.
- Umbilical hernia appears as a bulge around the belly button.
- Inguinal hernia is a bulge in the groin (more common in men).

Hernias are common. They can affect men, women and children. Usually, there is no obvious cause for a hernia. A combination of muscle weakness and straining, such as heavy lifting, may cause hernias. Some people are born with hernias or with weak abdominal muscles. Some people have a family history of hernia.

Physical activities and medical problems that increase pressure on the belly may lead to a hernia, including: constipation, chronic cough, cystic fibrosis, enlarged prostate, extra weight, fluid in the abdomen, heavy lifting, poor nutrition, smoking, and undescended testicles.

There are usually no symptoms for a hernia. However, you may feel pain while standing or straining when using the bathroom or lifting heavy objects.
Your doctor may suggest lifestyle changes to ease your symptoms, but surgery is considered the only way to permanently fix a hernia.\(^1\) If a child has an umbilical hernia that does not heal on its own by age 5, his/her doctor may recommend surgery. Keep in mind, all surgeries have risks and surgery may be riskier for patients with serious medical problems.

During a hernia repair surgery, the weakened abdominal wall tissue is secured and any holes are closed up.

Cross Section of a Ventral Hernia

Cross Section of Repaired Hernia
Hernia repair can be performed using traditional open surgery or minimally invasive surgery. With open surgery, doctors make a long incision in the abdomen. The incision must be large enough for the surgeon to fit his/her hands and surgical instruments inside the abdomen. Open surgery allows doctors to see and touch your organs and tissue while operating. Minimally invasive surgery (laparoscopy) is done through a few small incisions using long, thin surgical instruments and a tiny camera. The camera takes images inside your body. The images are sent to a video monitor in the operating room which guides surgeons as they operate.
da Vinci Surgery: A Minimally Invasive Surgical Option

State-of-the-art da Vinci Surgery is another minimally invasive surgical option for patients facing abdominal hernia surgery. The da Vinci System features a magnified 3D high-definition vision system and special wristed instruments that bend and rotate far greater than the human wrist. da Vinci enables your doctor to operate with enhanced vision, precision, dexterity and control.

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

- Low rate of recurrence$^2$
- Low rate of pain$^2$
- Low conversion rate to open surgery$^{2,3}$
- Short hospital stay$^{3,4}$

Risks & Considerations Related to Abdominal Hernia Surgery & da Vinci Surgery:

Potential risks of any a hernia procedure may include:

- Bowel obstruction$^2$
- Hernia$^{2,3}$
- Urinary retention$^3$
- Recurrence of incisional hernias are more likely$^1$
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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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 nearest you, visit: www.daVinciSurgery.com

The Enabling Technology: 
dai Vinci Surgical System

The 

dai Vinci 

Surgical System is designed to provide surgeons with enhanced capabilities, including high-definition 3D vision and a magnified view. Your doctor controls the 
dai 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,” 
dai Vinci 

cannot act on its own. Surgery is performed entirely by your doctor. Together, 
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technology allows your doctor to perform routine and complex procedures through just a few small openings, similar to traditional laparoscopy.

Over the last decade, the 
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System has brought minimally invasive surgery to over 2 million patients worldwide. 
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- changing the experience of surgery for people around the world.