Facing Surgery for Throat Cancer?

Learn about minimally invasive da Vinci Surgery for early to moderate stage throat cancer.
If you have been diagnosed with throat cancer, your doctor will discuss the condition with you, all options and the best path forward.

Depending on the tumor size, location and stage (extent) of the cancer, your options may include surgery, chemotherapy and radiation, often given in combination.¹

If your doctor suggests surgery, there are two main types: open surgery and minimally invasive transoral surgery (through the mouth).

Open Surgery Incision  

\textit{da Vinci} / Transoral Laser Surgery (no visible incisions or scars)
Open Surgery

Traditional open surgery requires your surgeon to make a long incision (cut) through the jaw and throat. Your surgeon may also need to break the jawbone to access the tumor.

Minimally Invasive Surgery

Transoral laser surgery is a minimally invasive option to open surgery. Using a microscope to look through the mouth and down the throat, the surgeon directs the laser to the tumor - avoiding facial disfigurement and a tracheostomy (incision in front of neck used as an airway).

There is another minimally invasive option for patients diagnosed with early to moderate stage throat cancer: da Vinci® Surgery.
**da Vinci Surgery:**
A Minimally Invasive Surgery Option

The *da Vinci* Surgical System used for throat cancer patients enables surgeons to operate through the mouth with no external incisions (no scars) to the face.

Key features of the *da Vinci* Surgical System:
- 3D HD view into the mouth and throat
- Tiny instruments that bend and rotate far greater than the human hand
- Enhanced vision, precision and control

Your doctor controls the *da Vinci* System, which translates his/her hand movements into smaller, precise movements of tiny instruments inside your body.

The *da Vinci* System has brought minimally invasive surgery to more than 3 million patients worldwide.

If you are facing surgery for throat cancer, ask your doctor about the potential benefits of *da Vinci* Surgery.

**Risks & Considerations Related to Transoral Robotic Surgery - TORS (head & neck surgery):**
bleeding that may be life-threatening, difficulty swallowing which could include the need for a permanent feeding tube without eating by mouth, breathing tube needs to be re-inserted, need to create breathing hole in the neck (tracheotomy and tracheostomy), need to use breathing tube and ventilator for a long time, changes to or loss of taste, tongue cannot move, difficulty opening mouth, broken teeth, narrowing of throat, changes in speech or voice quality, abnormal path from the gland that produces saliva, vocal cord damage, difficulty speaking, injury to teeth, difficulty breathing due to an airway blockage, loss of feeling in tongue, lip injury, injury to nerves in tongue and weak tongue.
NOTE: Transoral Robotic Surgery is intended for use only in benign and early to moderate stage cancerous tumors (classified as T1 or T2) and for benign base of tongue resection procedures.

Important Information for Patients:
Serious complications may occur in any surgery, including da Vinci® Surgery, up to and including death. Risks include, but are not limited to, injury to tissues and organs and conversion to other surgical techniques. 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. Individual surgical results may vary. 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. Please also refer to www.daVinciSurgery.com/Safety for important safety information.

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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 near you, visit: [www.daVinciSurgery.com](http://www.daVinciSurgery.com)

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