

## Da Vinci Surgical Robots: Technology for Safer and Faster Surgery Now Available System-wide

While traditional surgery involves making larger incisions that inherently exposes patients to certain risks and complications, robotic surgical systems offer a safe and effective alternative that uses smaller incisions and a 3D camera to perform precise and minimally invasive operations.

Woodhull Hospital's robotic surgical team and CEO Gregory Calliste cuts the ribbon on their new Da Vinci Surgical System.

One of the best known is the Da Vinci robot-assisted Surgical System which offers many benefits for surgeons such as less fatigue, better ergonomics and improved visualization. Benefits for patients include less blood loss, less pain, lower risk of infection, less scarring, shorter hospital stays, and faster recovery.



### Promoting Surgical Skills + Delivering Equity

“Expanding access to robotic surgery at NYC Health + Hospitals helps us compete in a market where physicians and patients have many choices. It gives our surgeons opportunities to expand their skillsets and helps attract the next generation of surgeons to our operating rooms,” said Nina Lauro, Director of Financial Planning & Analysis, Central Office. “But the real bottom line is that many more New Yorkers now have access to this innovative medical technology regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.”



In the center, one of Lincoln Hospital's first patients to receive robot-assisted surgery poses with the surgical team.

those who live in wealthy Manhattan neighborhoods and believes that robot-assisted surgery brings health equity to our communities. Lincoln Hospital offers gall bladder, appendix, hernia, colorectal, gynecologic and urologic procedures using the Da Vinci Surgical System.

### Improving Outcomes and Quality of Life

"The Da Vinci robot is ideal for patients with a history of prior surgeries resulting in scarring inside the abdomen because it allows us to better remove scar tissue and complete the surgery in a safer fashion," said Andrew Jones, MD, FACOG, Attending Physician, at NYC health + Hospitals/Woodhull Department of OB/GYN. Dr. Jones has performed more than forty robot-assisted surgeries since March. "Patients have also reported a significant decrease in need for narcotic pain medication following surgery, typically only needing over-the-counter pain medication when they go home from the hospital."

"Robot-assisted surgery has helped diminish some of the fear associated with uterine cancer," said NYC Health + Hospitals/Kings County gynecologic oncologist, Concepcion Diaz-Arrastia, MD. "Many of my patients hear stories about how hard traditional hysterectomy surgeries can be; about the long recovery..."

All of our acute care hospitals now have at least one Da Vinci Surgical System—and some have two. Before robot-assisted surgeries were available at NYC Health + Hospitals, many of our surgeons trained in robotics had to schedule these procedures at hospitals outside our system which disrupted the continuity of care for our patients and meant lost revenue at our facilities. We now have more access to robotic technology than any other municipal public health care system in the U.S.

Chief of Surgery at NYC Health + Hospitals/ Lincoln, Sherry Melton, MD, MSHA, wants patients in the South Bronx to receive the same level of care as

#### Da Vinci Facts and Stats

- **5,940** robot-assisted surgeries performed at NYC Health + Hospitals since 2003
- **4 to 65:** From just 4 surgeons to 65 surgeons currently doing robot-assisted surgeries
- **40%** System-wide growth in robot-assisted surgeries between 2018 - 2022
- **3,615** robot-assisted surgeries completed system-wide in the last 5 years
- **Top 5 Robot-Assisted Surgeries at NYC Health + Hospitals:**
  1. Bariatric surgery
  2. Gall bladder surgery (Cholecystectomy)
  3. Abdominal hernia surgery (Inguinal hernia)
  4. Prostate surgery (Prostatectomy)
  5. Uterine surgery (Hysterectomy)



The Harlem Hospital robotic surgical team led by Sharique Nazir (blue cap), MD, FACS, FASMBS, FICS, Chief Bariatric/Robotic Surgery perform bariatric surgery.

### Robust Training and Credentialing Program

To become credentialed for Da Vinci robot-assisted surgery, surgeons must complete a comprehensive training program that consists of online modules, hands-on simulation and lab exercises where they learn how to safely and effectively operate the system. Surgeons' first five cases are supervised and each of our acute care hospitals has a Da Vinci simulator which allows them to continuously hone their skills.

"Robotic surgery expansion across our health system is an impressive multidisciplinary collaboration between Facilities, EITS, Purchasing, Finance, Central Budget, and Simulation Departments—anchored to the goal of delivering state-of-the-art medical care to our deserving patient population," said PJ Rosenstock, MD, System Clinical Integration Officer, Medical & Professional Affairs and Da Vinci product manager and integration lead.

Dr. Manish Parikh, bariatric surgeon and System Chief of Perioperative Services, who played an integral role in the system-wide expansion of robotic assisted surgery is confident that "this medical innovation will allow our surgical teams to continuously ensure that our patients receive the best medical care where technology and compassion converge in the art of healing."

and are all surprised and appreciative that they can go home the same day after robotic surgery."

Dr. Javier Andrade, Chair of Surgery and Chief of Perioperative Services at Woodhull Hospital says the robotic surgical system is ideal for bariatric surgery. "Obese patients present with thick abdominal walls that require lots of strength from the surgeon to maneuver instruments—and this becomes more important when we talk about the extremely obese. In these cases, robotic surgical systems eliminate fatigue for surgeons and reduce the need for a second expert assistant. This translates into potentially decreased complication rates, less pain and faster recovery time for patients."