

## Robotic Surgery Center at Mercy Hospital

The Robotic Surgery Center at Mercy Hospital is changing the way doctors operate — and the way patients recover.

Our expertly trained surgeons use less invasive robotic surgery to perform complex operations that were impossible without open surgery just a few years ago. Like other minimally invasive procedures, robotic-assisted surgery is performed through a few tiny incisions. However, it offers surgeons higher magnification, better flexibility and more precision than conventional laparoscopic surgery.

Surgeons at Mercy Hospital commonly use robotic-assisted surgery to treat problems that affect the prostate, kidneys, bladder and uterus. Robotic surgery offers many potential benefits, including shorter hospital stays and a quicker return to daily activities.

### The Robotic Surgery Procedure

Robotic surgery is performed using advanced technology known as the da Vinci<sup>®</sup> Surgical System. The doctor sits at a console near the patient, using hand and foot pedals to control four robotic arms that hold micro-instruments and a miniature camera. The special 3D camera projects a color image to the console, giving the surgeon a view magnified 10 times.

The da Vinci robot is essentially an extension of the surgeon's hands and eyes, with the surgeon initiating and controlling every movement. The robot perfectly duplicates the actions of the surgeon; it does not perform surgery by itself. The tips of

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To learn more about robotic surgery at Mercy Hospital, call the Robotic Surgery Center at 763-236-6819 or visit [allinamercy.org](http://allinamercy.org).



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## Robotic Surgery Center at Mercy Hospital *continued*

the robotic arms rotate like the human wrist, allowing surgeons to use many of the same techniques they learned for open surgery. Robotic technology gives surgeons more flexibility, increased precision and greater reach even while operating through tiny incisions.

### What are the Benefits of Robotic Surgery?

Although every patient and every surgery is unique, robotic surgery offers important advantages for patients and surgeons alike. The da Vinci system has been used successfully at Mercy Hospital for more than 249 procedures. It is considered the best surgical option for many conditions. Talk to your doctor to find out whether robotic surgery is right for you.

Advantages to patients	Advantages to surgeons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Smaller incisions and less scarring</li><li>• Less pain and discomfort</li><li>• Shorter hospital stay</li><li>• Quicker recovery</li><li>• Less blood loss and fewer transfusions</li><li>• Fewer side effects and complications</li><li>• Reduced risk of infection</li><li>• Better outcomes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased range of motion</li><li>• More precision and control</li><li>• Better depth of field</li><li>• Easier to see – visually immersed in patient's body</li><li>• Ergonomic console and seating</li></ul>

### How does Robotic Surgery Compare?

Robotic surgery is quickly becoming the preferred method for many common surgical procedures – with some physician groups at Mercy Hospital using it for 97 percent of the surgeries they perform. The innovative da Vinci system makes it possible for doctors to perform complex and delicate procedures that were impossible just a few years ago without more invasive open surgery.

Traditional open surgery	Robotic surgery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• large incisions, often 6 to 12 inches</li><li>• lengthy hospital stay, several days or more</li><li>• an extended recovery period</li><li>• invasive procedure involves significant disruption and trauma to surrounding tissue</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• incisions usually 4 - 5 cm long</li><li>• one or two days in the hospital</li><li>• back to normal routine in several days to a couple weeks</li><li>• precise, minimally invasive procedure</li></ul>