

The Enabling Technology:

da Vinci® Surgical System

The *da Vinci* Surgical System is powered by state-of-the-art robotic technology. The System is designed to provide surgeons with enhanced capabilities, including high-definition 3D vision and an increased range of instrument motion.

Your surgeon controls the System, which translates hand and finger movements into smaller, more precise movements of small instruments positioned inside your body. Through it is often called a "robot," the *da Vinci* Surgical System cannot act on its own. The System cannot be programmed nor can it make decisions on its own.

The *da Vinci* technology allows your doctor to perform complex procedures through a few tiny openings. As a result, you will probably be able to get back to normal activities faster without the usual prolonged recovery following major surgery.

The *da Vinci* System has been used successfully worldwide in hundreds of thousands of procedures to date.



York Hospital's Robotic Surgery Program

Through the York Hospital Robotic Surgery Program, WellSpan has coupled leading-edge technology with highly skilled surgeons and clinical staff to offer residents of south central Pennsylvania and northern Maryland a minimally invasive alternative to major surgery.

Please visit wellspan.org for a complete listing of the types of robotic-assisted surgery that are offered at York Hospital.

For more information about robotic-assisted hysterectomy surgery, talk with your physician, visit www.wellspan.org or call the WellSpan HealthSource at (717) 851-3500 or (800) 840-5905.

This brochure is provided for general information purposes only. Talk to your doctor about whether *da Vinci*® surgery may be appropriate for your medical condition. If you have questions about the procedure, the *da Vinci*® Surgical System or the information in this brochure, please talk with your doctor.

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www.wellspan.org

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**Facing
Hysterectomy?**

Learn why *da Vinci*®
Surgery may be your best
treatment option

da Vinci Surgery

Condition(s)

Chronic Pain, Heavy Bleeding, Fibroids, Endometriosis and/or Prolapse

A wide variety of benign (non-cancerous) conditions can affect a woman's reproductive system, which consists of the uterus, vagina, ovaries and fallopian tubes. Most of these conditions affect the uterus, which is the hollow, muscular organ that holds a baby as it grows inside a pregnant woman.

Common gynecologic conditions like fibroids (non-cancerous growths of the uterine muscle), endometriosis (non-cancerous implants on the uterus, ovaries and the lining of the pelvic cavity) or prolapse (falling or slipping of the uterus) can cause abnormal and heavy bleeding, chronic pain or pain with periods, as well as other disabling symptoms.

Women who experience these symptoms are often treated with hysterectomy - the surgical removal of the uterus. In fact, this procedure is the second most common surgical procedure for women in the United States, and an estimated one third of all U.S. women will have a hysterectomy by age 60.

The Treatment

Hysterectomy

Your doctor might recommend a hysterectomy to treat your condition. Hysterectomy can sometimes be performed through the vagina. However, when the uterus is large or if you have internal scarring from prior surgery or other conditions, abdominal hysterectomy is usually performed.

Traditionally, abdominal hysterectomies are performed "open," necessitating a wide incision below the navel. This procedure is usually painful, requires strong narcotic pain medication, and results in significant risk of infection and blood loss. Often a recovery of as much as six weeks or more is needed. An abdominal hysterectomy can leave an obvious and uncomfortable scar.

While hysterectomy is a relatively safe procedure, it may not be appropriate or necessary for all individuals or conditions. Alternative treatments that preserve the uterus may be available. For example, *da Vinci*® myomectomy may be an option for women with fibroids who want to preserve their fertility and/or uterus. Always ask your doctor about all treatment options, as well as their risks and benefits.

da Vinci® Hysterectomy

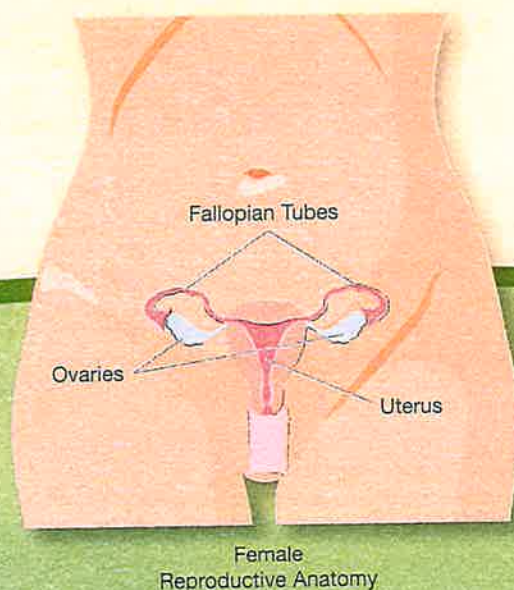
A robotic-assisted minimally invasive procedure

If you have a condition requiring a hysterectomy, you may be a candidate for an innovative, less invasive procedure called the *da Vinci* Hysterectomy. This procedure uses a state-of-the-art surgical system designed to help your doctor perform the most precise and least invasive hysterectomy available today.

For most women, *da Vinci* Hysterectomy offers numerous potential benefits over traditional surgical approaches, including:

- Significantly less pain
- Less blood loss and need for transfusion
- Fewer complications including lower risk of infection
- Shorter hospital stay
- Quicker recovery and return to normal activities
- Smaller incisions resulting in minimal scarring
- Better outcomes and greater patient satisfaction

As with any surgery, these benefits cannot be guaranteed, as surgery is patient- and procedure-specific.



Open
Hysterectomy Incision



da Vinci®
Hysterectomy Incisions

For more information

about *da Vinci*® Hysterectomy, talk with your physician, visit wellspan.org or call the WellSpan HealthSource at (717) 851-3500 or (800) 840-5905.