

When Small Is Beautiful

Robot-assisted surgery is revolutionizing women's healthcare

WHEN CHASTIN O'CONNOR learned that she had to have a hysterectomy, she was understandably concerned.

"I heard a lot about how I'd be down for a long time," she says. "I'm very active, very busy, so that was scary."

Then she learned that thanks to new technology, she would only have to lie low for three or four days.

Her hysterectomy was done by a surgeon using the da Vinci® robot, an amazing machine that allows surgeons to perform the entire operation with robotic arms inserted through four tiny incisions. They watch what they're doing on what they describe as a "3-D TV."

The robot-assisted procedure, compared with open or conventional laparoscopic (minimally invasive) surgery, results in:

- Less blood loss
- Less pain
- Quicker recovery

Back on Her Feet

O'Connor is amazed at how smoothly the entire procedure and recovery have been. It was completely different from the stories she heard of women who had a traditional hysterectomy before the minimally invasive option was available.

"I didn't have to take painkillers after," O'Connor says. "And I didn't have tenderness or soreness; there was no vaginal bleeding at all."

O'Connor's experience is similar to that of other patients who have had hysterectomies performed by surgeons using the da Vinci system.



Chastin O'Connor was back on her feet just days after a minimally invasive da Vinci hysterectomy.

"We use da Vinci because the postoperative recovery is quicker and less painful," says Dale Drollinger, M.D., a da Vinci specialist.

"Healing begins within a few hours, bladder and bowel functions begin to return almost immediately, and the patient doesn't spend the next few weeks recovering."

And that is something that O'Connor is very thankful for. 🦋

(Expert Care)

For more information, call
Kettering Women's Services at
(937) 384-3897.

And Men's Healthcare ...

Robotic da Vinci surgery also greatly benefits patients undergoing prostatectomy. Compared with traditional surgery, minimally invasive prostatectomy means a quicker recovery time for men:

THEN	NOW
3-7 days in hospital	2-3 days in hospital
an 8- to 10-inch incision	six ¼-inch incisions
several liters of blood lost	50-100 cc blood lost
6-8 weeks to go back to work	2-3 weeks to go back to work

"At Kettering, we are pioneers in da Vinci prostatectomy," says Safwat Zaki, M.D., FACS, "and have been using the robot for more than two years now. Kettering has the most updated version of the robot available, the only robot with such advanced features in the Dayton area."