

# Considering Hysterectomy?

Learn about minimally invasive  
*da Vinci*<sup>®</sup> Surgery



*da Vinci*<sup>®</sup>  Surgery

## The Conditions:

### Chronic Pain, Heavy Bleeding, Fibroids, Endometriosis/ Adenomyosis, 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, fist-sized organ that holds a baby during pregnancy.

Common benign gynecologic conditions include: fibroids which are growths in and on the uterus, endometriosis which occurs when your uterine lining grows outside the uterus, and pelvic prolapse which is the slipping of your uterus, vagina and/or bladder. Symptoms vary from woman to woman, but these conditions may cause chronic pain, heavy bleeding and other mild to severe symptoms.

If your symptoms are severe, and medication or lifestyle changes do not help, your doctor may recommend a hysterectomy - the surgical removal of the uterus. An estimated one third of all U.S. women have a hysterectomy by age 60.<sup>1</sup> While this figure is lower in many other countries, it is still a common procedure worldwide.<sup>2</sup>



# The Surgery:

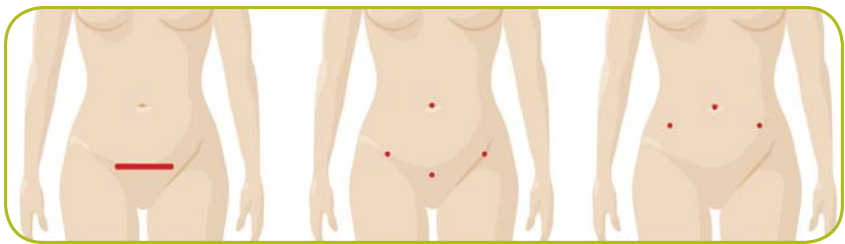
## Hysterectomy

If your doctor recommends that you have a hysterectomy, there are several ways your uterus can be removed. Hysterectomy can be performed by removing the uterus through your vagina. However, if the uterus is enlarged, you have internal scarring (also called adhesions) from a prior surgery, or some other gynecologic condition, your surgeon may perform an abdominal hysterectomy.

Abdominal hysterectomy is often performed with open surgery, which requires a large incision. The incision must be large enough for your surgeon to fit his or her hands and surgical instruments inside your body. Open surgery allows doctors to see and touch your organs as they operate.

Hysterectomy can also be performed using minimally invasive laparoscopic surgery. This means your surgeon operates through a few small incisions in the abdomen. The uterus is removed using special instruments, including a tiny camera. The camera sends images to a video monitor in the operating room which guides your surgeon during the operation.

There is another minimally invasive surgical option for women considering hysterectomy, *da Vinci* Surgery.



**Open Surgery  
Incision**

**Laparoscopy  
Incisions\***

***da Vinci*  
Incisions\***

\*Your surgeon may require additional incisions to complete your surgery.

# **da Vinci Surgery:**

## **A Minimally Invasive Surgical Option**

If your doctor recommends a hysterectomy, you may be a candidate for minimally invasive *da Vinci* Surgery. Using the *da Vinci* System, your surgeon makes a few small incisions - similar to traditional laparoscopy. The *da Vinci* System features a magnified 3D HD vision system and tiny wristed instruments that bend and rotate far greater than the human wrist. These features enable surgeons to operate with enhanced vision, precision, dexterity and control.

As a result of *da Vinci* technology, *da Vinci* Hysterectomy offers the following potential benefits compared to traditional open surgery:

- › **Less blood loss<sup>3</sup>**
- › **Fewer complications<sup>3</sup>**
- › **Shorter hospital stay<sup>3</sup>**
- › **Minimal scarring**

As a result of *da Vinci* technology, *da Vinci* Hysterectomy offers the following potential benefits compared to traditional laparoscopy:

- › **Less blood loss<sup>4</sup>**
- › **Lower conversion rate to open surgery<sup>4</sup>**
- › **Shorter hospital stay<sup>4,5</sup>**
- › **Less need for narcotic pain medicine<sup>6,7</sup>**

## **Risks & Considerations Related to Hysterectomy & *da Vinci* Surgery:**

Injury to the ureters (ureters drain urine from the kidney into the bladder), vaginal cuff problem (replaces cervix): scar tissue in vaginal incision, infection, bacterial skin infection, pooling/clotting of blood, incision opens or separates, injury to bladder (organ that holds urine), bowel injury, vaginal shortening, problems urinating (cannot empty bladder, urgent or frequent need to urinate, leaking urine, slow or weak stream), abnormal hole from the vagina into the urinary tract or rectum, vaginal tear or deep cut. Patients undergoing a hysterectomy who have an undiagnosed cancer may be at risk of having cancer cells spread if the uterus is cut into pieces for removal.

### **Important Information for Patients:**

Serious complications may occur in any surgery, including *da Vinci*<sup>®</sup> Surgery, up to and including death. Examples of serious or life-threatening complications, which may require prolonged and/or unexpected hospitalization and/or reoperation, include but are not limited to, one or more of the following: injury to tissues/organs, bleeding, infection and internal scarring that can cause long-lasting dysfunction/pain. Risks of surgery also include the potential for equipment failure and/or human error. Individual surgical results may vary.

Risks specific to minimally invasive surgery, including *da Vinci* Surgery, include but are not limited to, one or more of the following: temporary pain/nerve injury associated with positioning; temporary pain/discomfort from the use of air or gas in the procedure; a longer operation and time under anesthesia.

Patients who are not candidates for non-robotic minimally invasive surgery are also not candidates for *da Vinci*<sup>®</sup> 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. For Important Safety Information, including surgical risks, indications, and considerations and contraindications for use, please also refer to [www.davincisurgery.com/safety](http://www.davincisurgery.com/safety) and [www.intuitivesurgical.com](http://www.intuitivesurgical.com).

All people depicted unless otherwise noted are models. © 2014 Intuitive Surgical, Inc. All rights reserved. Product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective holders. PN 870697 Rev D 06/14

<sup>1</sup> Medline Plus; National Institutes of Health. "Hysterectomy." Available from: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/hysterectomy.html>. <sup>2</sup>National Institutes of Health., "Hysterectomy." Available from: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/002915.htm>. <sup>3</sup> Landeen LB, et al. Clinical and cost comparisons for hysterectomy via abdominal, standard laparoscopic, vaginal and robot-assisted approaches. *S D Med*. 2011 Jun;64(6):197-9, 201, 203 passim. <sup>4</sup> Payne, TN and F. R. Dauterive. A comparison of total laparoscopic hysterectomy to robotically assisted hysterectomy: surgical outcomes in a community practice. *J Minim Invasive Gynecol*, 2008;15(3): 286-291. <sup>5</sup> Giep BN, et al. Comparison of minimally invasive surgical approaches for hysterectomy at a community hospital: robotic-assisted laparoscopic hysterectomy, laparoscopic-assisted vaginal hysterectomy and laparoscopic supracervical hysterectomy. *J Robot Surg*. 2010 Sep;4(3):167-175. Epub 2010 Aug 10. <sup>6</sup> Shashoua AR, et al. Robotic-assisted total laparoscopic hysterectomy versus conventional total laparoscopic hysterectomy. *JSLS*. 2009 Jul-Sep;13(3):364-9. <sup>7</sup> Betcher R MD, et al. A Retrospective Analysis of Post Operative Pain in Patients Following da Vinci Robotic Hysterectomy and Total Laparoscopic Hysterectomy. Oral presentation, Presented at: AAGL 2012. <sup>8</sup> Boggess JF, et al. Perioperative outcomes of robotically assisted hysterectomy for benign cases with complex pathology. *Obstet Gynecol*. 2009 Sep;114(3):585-93.

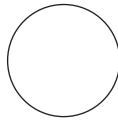
Your doctor is one of a growing number of surgeons worldwide offering *da Vinci* Surgery.

For more information and to find a *da Vinci* surgeon near you, visit:

[www.daVinciSurgery.com](http://www.daVinciSurgery.com)

*da Vinci* Surgery

**Patient Education Video**  
Benign Hysterectomy



INTUITIVE  
SURGICAL

## The Enabling Technology:

### *da Vinci* Surgical System

The *da Vinci* Surgical System is designed to provide surgeons with enhanced capabilities, including high-definition 3D vision and a magnified view. Your doctor controls the *da Vinci* System, which translates his or her hand movements into smaller, more precise movements of tiny instruments inside your body.



Though it is often called a "robot," *da Vinci* cannot act on its own. Surgery is performed entirely by your doctor. Together, *da Vinci* technology allows your doctor to perform routine and complex procedures through just a few small openings, similar to traditional laparoscopy.

The *da Vinci* System has been used successfully worldwide in approximately 2 million various surgical procedures to date. *da Vinci* - changing the experience of surgery for people around the world.