

# Redefining the Cutting Edge

FOR MORE THAN A YEAR, SURGEONS AT LAWNWOOD REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER & HEART INSTITUTE HAVE USED THE DA VINCI® ROBOTIC SURGICAL SYSTEM TO REVOLUTIONIZE THE WAY THEY PERFORM SURGERY—WITH SPECTACULAR RESULTS FOR PATIENTS.

WITH DA VINCI, the physician performing surgery sits in the operating room about 10 feet from the patient and observes a 3-D image of the patient's body on a video monitor. While watching the screen, the surgeon uses two hand-held controls to manipulate the robotic arms.

Instead of long incisions, da Vinci requires only five or less one-centimeter incisions to perform the most intricate surgeries, resulting in less blood loss and shorter recovery times.

## Patients Profit from Fewer Risks

**Question:** Why is the da Vinci robot head and shoulders above traditional open surgery?

**Answer:** Because it offers patients:

- less surgical trauma
- decreased use of post-surgery sedatives
- shorter hospital stays with quicker recovery times
- reduced inflammation of body tissue
- decreased pain and risk of infection
- reduced blood loss
- lowered risk of complications

Although the robot is mainly used for radical prostatectomies, it can also improve patient outcomes by treating colon cancer, remedying female incontinence, and performing kidney and lower urethral reconstruction.

### A Better Surgery

Only 300 hospitals worldwide currently offer the da Vinci system. At LRMC, doctors use the da Vinci system to perform complicated procedures—such as prostatectomy, or removal of the prostate due to prostate cancer—all while sparing vital nerves.

"The robot's 'wrists' can rotate further than the human hand, allowing surgeons more dexterity when performing operations," explains Adam Ball, MD, urologist with Gulfstream Urology Associates.

While the da Vinci's robotic arms perform the procedure, your doctor directs every step of the process. Using two small looped handles connected to the robot through a computer, your doctor meticulously maneuvers the robotic arms from where he is seated in a nearby console in the operating room.



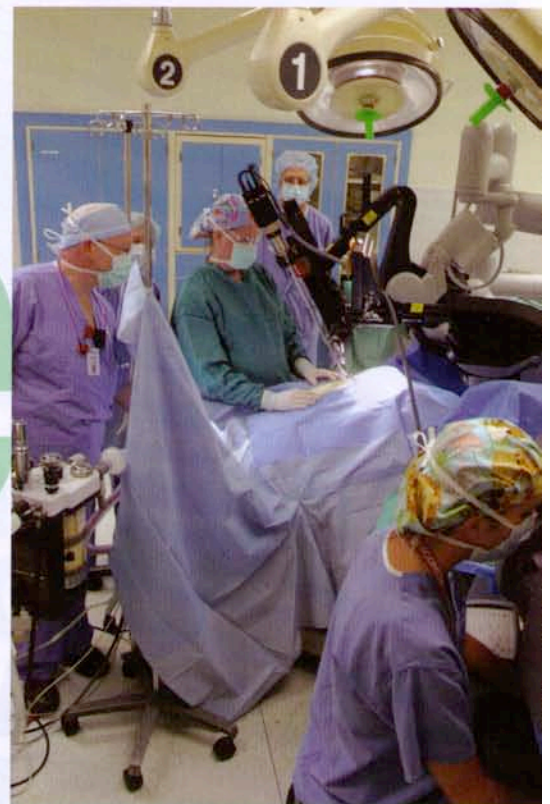
Scott van Appledorn, MD

"Viewing the procedure on the da Vinci's computer screen helps doctors increase their accuracy because they see every move they make magnified ten-fold and in 3-D," says Scott van Appledorn, MD, urologist with Gulfstream Urology Associates.

### Results to Rely On

LRMC patient Tom Grady has personally experienced the benefits of the da Vinci robot.

"Before I learned of Dr. Ball and the da Vinci robot, other physicians I consulted told me surgery could leave me incontinent



Surgeons at Lawnwood Regional Medical Center & Heart Institute use the da Vinci® Robotic Surgical System to improve patient outcomes.



Adam Ball, MD

or impotent," says Grady, who underwent a prostatectomy due to prostate cancer. "Dr. Ball explained to me that by using the da Vinci robot, I could avoid both of these outcomes."

Giving patients like Grady top-notch results is just one example of the success patients undergoing da Vinci robot procedures enjoy—and surgeons gladly put in the time to educate themselves on the latest techniques.

"We did an extra year of advanced fellowship training in order to offer patients this service," Dr. Ball says. "Before we collaborated with LRMC to acquire the da Vinci system, there was not a single surgical robot in use along the Treasure Coast. We're thrilled to present this as an option for patients with prostate cancer."

*To find a physician fellowship trained in robotics at LRMC, call our physician referral line at (800) 382-3522.*