

# Lawnwood Regional Medical Center and Heart Institute

## World class technology – da Vinci Robotic Surgical System – now available

By Susan Burgess  
correspondent

Lawnwood Regional Medical Center and Heart Institute has yet another "first" under its belt: the da Vinci Robotic Surgical System from Intuitive Surgical Inc.

"Lawnwood is the first hospital on the Treasure Coast to acquire a robotic surgical system," said Lawnwood spokeswoman Beth Williams.

At Lawnwood, the world-class technology is used for prostate surgery, said Adam J. Ball, M.D. and partner Scott Van Appledorn, M.D. of Gulfstream Urology, who have received fellowship training in the use of the robotic equipment.

Use of the da Vinci, with its very precise robotic arms, offers patients a host of benefits, the doctors said, starting with a short-

er recovery time, less pain, less blood loss, less scarring, and less risk of complications.

To use the machine, a doctor sits at a console with his or her hands inside two controls. "Using them, our motions are mimicked by the robotic arms," Ball said.

The view of the surgical area is three-dimensional and highly magnified, Van Appledorn said.

The arms themselves have tips that are only 8 mm in diameter, or less than one-third of an inch. Each of the incisions made isn't a lot bigger than the size of the tip.

"This is really laparoscopic surgery using a robotic system," Ball said.

The more usual method of surgery requires a much larger incision because the surgeon must be able to get his hands inside the body to work, Van Appledorn explained.



Photo provided

At Lawnwood, the world-class da Vinci Robotic Surgical System is used for prostate surgery.

"This leads to more blood loss, more scarring, and more chance of complications following the surgery," he said.

"When patients realize the ro-

botic surgery, with all its benefits, is an option they become very interested," Ball continued. "We are very excited that Lawnwood is bringing this state-of-the-art tech-

Lawnwood is the first hospital on the Treasure Coast to acquire a robotic surgical system.

Beth Williams, spokeswoman  
Lawnwood Regional Medical Center and Heart Institute

nology to the community."

"Prostate cancer is one of the leading cancers in men," said Van Appledorn. "For those who would benefit from removal of the prostate gland to potentially cure their cancer, this technology offers an exciting alternative to traditional surgery."

Prostate Cancer Awareness Week is Sept. 18-25. The second leading cause of cancer in males in the United States, prostate cancer can be cured by removal of the prostate gland if caught early enough.

With the da Vinci robotic surgery, men are able to return to work much sooner than they could with traditional surgery,

meaning that the whole experience causes much less disruption to patients' lives.

For more information on this service or for a referral to a physician certified on the da Vinci, call Lawnwood's free referral line at 800-382-3522.

Lawnwood Regional Medical Center and Heart Institute is located at 1700 S. 23rd Street in Fort Pierce. Their phone number is (772) 461-4000.

Gulfstream Urology, with Dr. Adam Ball and Dr. Scott Van Appledorn, is located at 2100 Nebraska Ave, Suite 211, in Fort Pierce. For more information, call (772) 465-2020.