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The New Hysterectomy: Faster Recovery, Less Pain and Less Blood Loss

Gynecological Surgeons Now Utilizing KMC da Vinci System

KETTERING – Over 2,000 women have received healing gynecologic surgery from Wm Michael McCullough, MD, during his 23 years of local private practice. Many who require hysterectomy can now benefit from an innovative new technology that provides a less painful operation through smaller incisions followed by a faster recovery.

“For those patients who do qualify, da Vinci robotic-assisted surgery can be a real winner compared to the old paradigm which usually requires a longer hospital stay with a slower and more painful return to daily activities,” Dr. McCullough said.

“It’s not only more fun to see my patient’s recover faster, it’s really fantastic to see this new technology enhance operative capabilities and improve their whole care experience – this is a big value added innovation on behalf of my patients,” Dr. McCullough added.

Kettering Medical Center has adopted this robotic-assist system which is revolutionizing surgery as an increasing number of skilled physicians take its controls. The computer

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enhances operative technique by giving greater precision and control. “Everything we used to do on a macroscopic scale -- suturing, tying knots, cutting and cautery -- are all now accomplished with magnified clarity and control,” Dr. McCullough said. “KMC’s da Vinci uses smaller incisions and very precise tools. You have a 360-degree range of motion in very tight spaces, and the 3-D magnification puts you right on top of everything, allowing accuracy and control with very complex situations.”

Recently certified on the da Vinci S, Dr. McCullough has seen or completed about two dozen daVinci hysterectomies and gynecological surgeries. “I tell my patients that instead of having the larger ‘open zipper’ abdominal incision, we are working through four small button holes,” Dr. McCullough said. “With less abdominal tissue trauma, you have less pain, less blood loss, easier recovery, and an inherently lower risk of infection. Most people are able to go back to work in days rather than weeks.”

Safwat Zaki, MD, performed KMC’s first robotic-assisted surgery, a prostatectomy, in May of 2006, and he has now done more than 100 prostate procedures with the system. The da Vinci is gaining legions of fans across many specialties in the operating room. It has been utilized for thoracic surgery at KMC earlier this year, and its role in heart valve repair and other cardio thoracic applications are also being explored.

In addition to hysterectomies, the da Vinci system can be used by gynecological surgeons for infertility surgery and ovarian tumors or cysts. Many urologists believe that less tissue damage from more precise surgery can reduce the incidences of post-surgery complications like incontinence or erectile dysfunction. In Ohio, many gynecologic oncologists have already converted to the more advantageous da Vinci surgery.

“Some patients express reservations about a robot doing their operation,” said (Administrative Source). “There is really no reason to be concerned about this, because

the robot is not doing your surgery. The robotic tools are an extension of a skilled surgeon's hands . . . capable of making him or her better.”

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Dr McCullough agrees, “With some additional training, an excellent laparoscopic surgeon should actually improve upon his or her capabilities and skills from the robotic enhancement.”

“We have a wonderful team of physicians and nurses in our robotic-assisted surgery program,” (Administrative source) added. “If someone in my family needed a surgery that could be done with da Vinci, I would want them to have the benefit of this team and this remarkable technology. The magnification, increased precision and added dexterity are real benefits.”

For more information on robotic-assisted surgery at KMC, please call _____.

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