

How can you prepare for surgery?



One way to learn more about your surgery is to ask your doctor and care team questions.

Here are some questions you might ask:

- What medical and surgical options are available for me?
- Which is best for my situation?
- What are the differences between open, laparoscopic, and robotic-assisted surgery?
- Should I get a second opinion?
- What am I likely to experience after surgery?
- If I decide to have surgery, how can I prepare for it?
- What is your surgical training and experience? What is your experience with robotic-assisted surgery?
- What are your patient outcomes?

What is a hysterectomy?

Hysterectomy is surgery to remove your uterus and surrounding tissue, as needed. The main types include:

- Simple or Total (a procedure to remove the uterus, cervix, and surrounding tissue)
- Radical (a procedure to remove the uterus, cervix, part of the vagina, and surrounding tissue)

These procedures can be recommended for cancerous and noncancerous (benign) conditions. If you have been diagnosed with gynecologic cancer, you should discuss all options with your doctor, including surgery.

If you are a candidate for surgery, your surgeon may recommend:



Open surgery

Surgeon makes an incision in your abdomen large enough to see the uterus, cervix, and surrounding tissue and performs the procedure using hand-held tools



Laparoscopic surgery

Surgeon makes a few small incisions in the abdomen and operates using special long-handled tools while viewing magnified images from the laparoscope (camera) on a video screen



Robotic-assisted surgery

Surgeon controls the da Vinci system to perform the procedure

Surgical Risks

Risks associated with hysterectomy, cancer (removal of the uterus and possibly nearby organs) include injury to the ureters (the ureters drain urine from the kidney into the bladder), vaginal cuff problem (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), vaginal fistula (abnormal hole from the vagina into the urinary tract or rectum), vaginal tear or deep cut.

Important Safety Information

Patients should talk to their doctors to decide if da Vinci Surgery is right for them. Patients and doctors should review all available information on nonsurgical and surgical options and associated risks in order to make an informed decision.

Serious complications may occur in any surgery, including da Vinci Surgery, up to and including death. Serious risks include, but are not limited to, injury to tissues and organs and conversion to other surgical techniques, which could result in a longer operative time and/or increased complications. For important safety information, including surgical risks, indications, and considerations and contraindications for use, please refer to www.intuitive.com/safety.

Individuals' outcomes may depend on a number of factors, including but not limited to patient characteristics, disease characteristics and/or surgeon experience.

Precaution Statement

The demonstration of safety and effectiveness for the representative specific procedures was based on evaluation of the device as a surgical tool and did not include evaluation of outcomes related to the treatment of cancer (overall survival, disease-free survival, local recurrence) or treatment of the patient's underlying disease/condition. Device usage in all surgical procedures should be guided by the clinical judgment of an adequately trained surgeon.

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Focus on your care

Take time to consider your hysterectomy options for gynecologic cancer.

Now is the time to honor your needs.

As women, we often make decisions based on what's best for everyone. But with a diagnosis of gynecologic cancer, it's important to make your well-being your top priority.

Hearing the news that you have cancer can be life altering. It's important to take the time to understand the type of cancer you have and your options for care. You and your doctor can discuss your choices and decide which approach is right for you.

Surgery is one option you and your doctor may discuss, including robotic-assisted surgery with da Vinci technology. This brochure can help you understand what that means.

What will my surgeon do?



If you and your doctor decide that robotic-assisted surgery is right for you, here is what may happen.

Actual incision size

During robotic-assisted surgery with the da Vinci system, your surgeon makes a few small incisions, and uses a 3DHD camera for a crystal-clear, magnified view of your uterus, cervix, and surrounding tissue.



Your surgeon sits at a console next to you and operates through the incisions using tiny instruments and the camera.



The da Vinci system translates every hand movement your surgeon makes in real time, bending and rotating the instruments so he or she can remove your uterus, cervix and, as needed, some surrounding tissue and nearby lymph nodes.

What is the da Vinci system?

It is a surgical system with three parts:

Surgeon console

Is the control center where your surgeon sits to perform the operation.

Patient cart

Holds the camera and surgical instruments your surgeon controls from the console.

Vision cart

Manages the communication between all the system components and provides a screen for the care team to view the operation.

What are the outcomes?

Be sure to talk with your surgeon about the surgical outcomes he or she delivers by using the da Vinci system, as every surgeon's experience is different. For example, ask about:

- Length of hospital stay
- Chance of switching to an open procedure
- Complication rate
- Length of surgery

There are additional outcomes of surgery that you may want to talk with your doctor about. Please ask him or her about all important outcomes of surgery.

To find out more about outcomes of surgery with the da Vinci system, as published in clinical studies, visit the Hysterectomy for Cancer page on www.davincisurgery.com.



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