

# Considering a Hysterectomy?

Learn more about  
**virtually scarless surgery** using  
**da Vinci® Single-Site®** technology



**da Vinci**  **Surgery**

## Symptoms & Conditions:

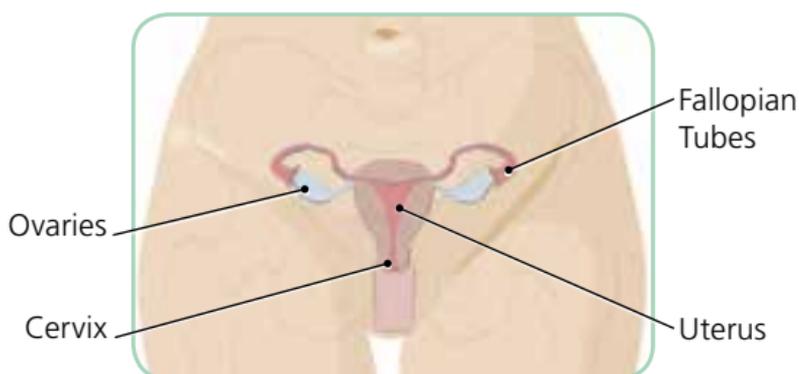
Chronic Pain, Heavy Bleeding, Fibroids, Endometriosis, Pelvic Prolapse

Many benign (non-cancerous) conditions can affect a woman's reproductive system, including the uterus, cervix, ovaries and fallopian tubes.

Common benign conditions include: fibroids, which are growths in and/or around the uterus; endometriosis, which occurs when your uterine lining grows outside the uterus; adenomyosis, which occurs when your uterine lining grows into the wall of the uterus; and pelvic prolapse, which is the slipping of the uterus, vagina and/or bladder.

Gynecologic conditions can cause many different symptoms or no symptoms at all. Some of the more common symptoms may include: pelvic pain, heavy bleeding, irregular periods, fatigue, unusual bloating, pain during intercourse, and infertility.<sup>1,2</sup>

If your symptoms are severe, your doctor may suggest medicine, lifestyle changes or surgery. Surgical options will depend on your exact condition, symptoms and overall health.



# { The Surgery Hysterectomy

Your doctor may recommend a hysterectomy (removal of your uterus and possibly ovaries and fallopian tubes). About one-third of all U.S. women have a hysterectomy by age 60.<sup>1</sup> There are different ways



to perform a hysterectomy, as detailed below. You should discuss all options with your doctor if he/she recommends a hysterectomy.

**Vaginal Hysterectomy:** A vaginal hysterectomy is done through a cut in your vagina. The surgeon operates through this incision and closes it with stitches.

**Abdominal Hysterectomy:** During an abdominal hysterectomy (open surgery), your uterus is removed through a large open incision. The incision must be large enough for your surgeon's hands to fit inside your body and see your organs.

**Laparoscopy:** Laparoscopic surgery is minimally invasive. With traditional laparoscopy, your surgeon operates through a few small incisions using long instruments and a tiny camera to guide doctors during surgery. Another laparoscopic option is robotically-assisted *da Vinci* Surgery. Your uterus is also removed through a few small incisions (ports) in your abdomen. *da Vinci* technology provides your surgeon with enhanced vision, precision and control.

**Single-Site/Single Incision:** Your uterus can also be removed through a small incision in your belly button using single-incision traditional laparoscopy or *da Vinci*® *Single-Site*® Surgery. These procedures allow for virtually scarless results.



Open Surgery  
Incision

*da Vinci* Surgery  
or Traditional  
Lap Surgery

*da Vinci Single-Site*®  
& Single Incision  
Laparoscopy

# *da Vinci*® *Single-Site*® Surgery: A Virtually Scarless Procedure

With *da Vinci Single-Site* Surgery, doctors remove your uterus and possibly your ovaries and fallopian tubes through your belly button using state-of-the-art instruments. Patients who choose *da Vinci Single-Site* Surgery experience virtually scarless results, similar to single incision traditional laparoscopy.

As a result of *da Vinci* technology, *da Vinci Single-Site* Hysterectomy offers the following potential benefits:

- Low blood loss<sup>3</sup>
- Low rate of converting to traditional laparoscopy and open surgery<sup>3</sup>
- Low rate of complications<sup>3</sup>
- Short hospital stay<sup>3</sup>
- Small incision for virtually scarless results<sup>3</sup>

## **Risks & Considerations Related to Hysterectomy, including *da Vinci Single-Site* 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*® 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 and conversion to another surgical technique. If your doctor needs to convert the surgery to another surgical technique, this could result in a longer operative time, additional time under anesthesia, additional or larger incisions and/or increased complications. 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).

*da Vinci* Surgery with *Single-Site*<sup>®</sup> Instruments is cleared for use in gallbladder removal, and for hysterectomy and ovary removal for benign conditions. Patients who are not candidates for non-robotic minimally invasive surgery are also not candidates for *da Vinci* Surgery, including *da Vinci* Surgery with *Single-Site*<sup>®</sup> Instruments. There may be an increased risk of incision-site hernia with single-incision surgery, including *Single-Site* surgery with *da Vinci*.

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

For more information and to find a *da Vinci* Surgeon nearest you, visit: **[www.daVinciSurgery.com](http://www.daVinciSurgery.com)**

<sup>1</sup> "Hysterectomy". Medline Plus; A Service of the U.S. National Library of Medicine – National Institutes of Health. 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> Cela V, Freschi L, Simi G, Ruggiero M, Tana R, Pluchino N. Robotic single-site hysterectomy: feasibility, learning curve and surgical outcome. *Surg Endosc.* 2013 Jul;27(7):2638-43. doi: 10.1007/s00464-012-2780-8. Epub 2013 Feb 8. <sup>4</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.

## **The Enabling Technology:** *da Vinci*<sup>®</sup> Surgical System with *Single-Site*<sup>®</sup> Technology

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.

### ***da Vinci Single-Site Patient Incision***



**5 Minutes After Surgery**  
*(Real hysterectomy patient photo)*

Though it is often called a “robot,” *da Vinci* cannot act on its own. Surgery is performed entirely by your doctor. Together, the *da Vinci* System and *Single-Site*<sup>®</sup> instruments allow your doctor to remove your uterus, fallopian tubes and/or ovaries through a single incision, similar to single incision traditional laparoscopy. As a result, you may be able to get back to life without the usual recovery that follows major surgery.