

Community Close-up | Da Vinci Surgical System Cedar Park

By Jenn Rains

In September 2009, Cedar Park Regional Medical Center got a helping hand for surgeries—the da Vinci Surgical System. This \$1.3 million system is a robotic-assisted technology that aids surgeons in performing complex procedures without using large incisions. The use of da Vinci helps reduce pain levels and recovery times for patients.

Since the first operation using the technique on

Oct. 15, 2009, CPRMC has had 42 operations using the system, which allows the surgeon to use finger controls on a console to maneuver instruments on the surgical table while looking at a 3-D image provided by a high-definition camera.

Dr. Carl Bischoff, a urologist at CPRMC, is just one of many doctors trained on the da Vinci Surgical System. Bischoff has used the da Vinci robot to remove cancer from kidneys,

the bladder and prostate. He has also used the system to perform urinary and pelvic organ reconstructive surgery.

"Historically, robotic surgery has mainly been used in the field of urology," he said. "Recently, however, there has been adoption of this technology in other surgical disciplines as well. This is a very exciting time for robotic-assisted surgery."



The main components of the da Vinci Surgical System include a set of robotic instrument arms at the operating table, a central computer system and a console, right, in which the surgeon performs the procedure and communicates with assistants.



Three instrument arms, left, contain surgical tools, including forceps, needle drivers, graspers, scissors and bisectors, that are switched out for each operation. The robotic arms replicate the surgeon's movements in real time, and a high-definition camera with two lenses records the operation. The tools, above, are narrower than a fingertip, allowing them to enter the body through small incisions.



A technician who trains surgeons on the device demonstrates how the surgeon views the operation as a 3-D image within a scope, top, at the console. The surgeon controls the robotic instrument arms with a set of stabilized finger grips, center, allowing for smoother, more precise movements. The high-definition camera is adjusted with foot pedals.

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