

Gynecologic surgery may be robotic

Question: What should I expect if I need gynecologic surgery?

Answer: Most gynecologic surgeries are performed using minimally invasive techniques. This means smaller incisions, less pain, a shorter hospital stay and faster recovery. For example, hysterectomies are usually performed using a laparoscope. This involves inserting a thin camera (a laparoscope) and surgical instruments into the abdomen through tiny incisions. The surgeon can see and operate through these small incisions.

Another example is surgery to treat pelvic prolapse — a condition where the uterus, bladder or rectum bulge into the vagina. This is routinely performed with minimally invasive techniques, either through the vagina, laparoscopically or a combination of both methods.

Many minimally invasive gynecological surgeries, including surgeries for gynecological cancer, are performed laparoscopically using the da Vinci robot. With this high-tech tool, thin surgical instruments that move like a



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ASK THE
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the more challenging surgeries laparoscopically.

Women facing gynecologic surgery should talk with their physicians about what to expect before, during and after surgery, as well as whether their procedure can be performed minimally invasively.

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surgeon's hand are inserted into the patient through small incisions. The surgeon, who sits at a console, views the surgical area in 3-D high definition. As the surgeon moves her hands, the robot's surgical instruments respond in real time. This allows the surgeon to operate very precisely and accomplish even