

Robotic Technology Advances Treatment of Prostate Cancer

The robotic da Vinci Surgical System, introduced at Lakeland HealthCare last July, has had a profound impact on the lives of prostate cancer patients.

"Men need to know that they can have a good quality of life after prostate cancer surgery," said Paul Pschigoda of Stevensville, Michigan, the first patient to undergo a robotic prostatectomy at Lakeland. "I've had other surgeries, and know people who've had traditional prostate cancer surgery, and my recovery from this one was much quicker than I expected. I did not need to undergo radiation or chemotherapy after my procedure, and I am now cancer free. I'm thrilled that Lakeland brought the da Vinci to southwest Michigan."

Patients Benefit from Less Invasive Surgery

Prostate cancer, the second most common malignancy in men, affects one in six men during their lifetime, according to the American Cancer Society. More than 2 million men in the United States are survivors of prostate cancer, and an estimated 186,320 new cases of prostate cancer are predicted in 2008. In treating prostate cancer, a da Vinci prostatectomy presents a number of advantages over an open prostatectomy, such as less intraoperative blood loss, improved reconstruction of the urinary system, shorter recovery time, less pain, and less scarring.

Robotic technology has been utilized in a total of 82* cases at Lakeland. The robotic urologic program, led by **Benjamin Stockton, MD**, and **Peter Bridges, MD**, of Lakeside Urology and Continence Center in St. Joseph and Niles, accounted for 70 cases, including radical prostatectomy and pelvic lymph node dissection for prostate cancer, sacrocolpopexy for vaginal prolapse, and pyeloplasty for ureteral obstruction. Gynecologists have found the robotic technology at Lakeland useful for some patients requiring hysterectomy.

"Almost every patient requiring a prostatectomy is a candidate for robotic surgery," said Dr. Bridges. "The majority of the last 70 urologic robotic surgical procedures performed by Lakeside Urology have been for the treatment of prostate cancer."

Debbie Grabowski, RN, coordinator of the robotic surgery program at Lakeland said, "Lakeland's commitment to investing in state-of-the-art technology allows patients to receive the advanced treatment they need without leaving their own community."



Dr. Benjamin Stockton (front), Dr. Peter Bridges, nurse Jessica Mullauer and the da Vinci Surgical System