



UOFL HEALTH— MELODY KITCHEN

UofL Health Blog—Benefits of
Robotic Surgery

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WHY YOU SHOULD CONSIDER ROBOTIC SURGERY

The benefits of this new technology could put you on the road to recovery, faster.

Your doctor tells you it's time for a needed surgery—a hernia repair, perhaps, or gallbladder surgery, or a hysterectomy. You're given the option of having traditional surgery, or robotic surgery, where the doctor uses a sophisticated DaVinci surgical robot to hold the scalpel. Should you take the robotic option?

In most cases, yes. If your surgeon is comfortable and experienced with the technology, the robotic assist can allow them to do the surgery with smaller incisions, greater accuracy and a range of dexterity that's simply not possible with a human hand.

When a surgeon does robotic surgery, they are generally on the other side of a glass, controlling the robotic surgical hand. They use a variety of magnified screens to make very small, very precise movements. And this is important, because a surgeon is trying to work around healthy tissues, blood vessels and nerves. The robotic surgery system allows them to see to a near microscopic level, eliminating guesswork. The robotic hand can rotate a full 360 degrees, offering a degree of agility and accuracy that surgeons simply don't have.

So, what does this mean to you, the patient? Robotic surgery can have numerous benefits to both the surgical process, and your recovery afterwards. In our practice here at UofL Health, we've noticed that patients who undergo robotic surgeries:

- Have smaller incisions. Surgeons using traditional methods must create incisions for access, and to see properly. But with robotic surgery the small cameras and tiny remote-control scalpels often have cameras attached, allowing them to see what's happening beneath the skin. An incision that might be four inches in a traditional surgery may only be a half inch in a robotic surgery.
- Considerably Less Pain. Robotic surgery cuts through less skin, and less muscle, only focusing on the pinpointed surgical area. That means you'll be up on your feet and moving around faster, because fewer muscles are compromised. And the smaller the cuts, the less post-operative pain.
- Less risk of infection and blood loss. Smaller cuts lead to less blood loss. And smaller incisions are far less prone to infection than traditional ones. The more we can reduce the surgery's impact on the body, the fewer complications patients experience.



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- Less time in the hospital. Monitoring a patient's wounds post-surgery is typically what contributes to long hospital stays. But when the wounds are smaller, there's less to manage. Many robotic surgeries can be done on a near outpatient basis, where patients may only experience one night in the hospital. Even for more extensive surgeries, robotic procedures can shave days off your hospital stay.
- Less Scarring. Smaller incisions mean smaller, thinner scars. And that creates a much better cosmetic outcome for patients.

To put it plainly, robotic surgeries lead to better surgical outcomes, all the way around. In my practice, we have embraced the technology, and everything it can do to improve patient care. If you have a necessary surgery coming up, don't be afraid to ask for a surgeon with robotic surgery credentials, and a solid track record with the technology.

If you'd like to talk to my practice about how robotic surgery can benefit you, please contact us at xxx-xxx-xxxxx or (email here.) We'd love to hear from you and show you how the right surgical technology can make a difference for your health.

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