Considering a Hysterectomy?

Learn more about virtually scarless surgery using da Vinci® Single-Site® technology.
Symptoms & Conditions:
Chronic Pain, Heavy Bleeding,
Fibroids, Endometriosis, Adenomyosis,
Pelvic Prolapse

Many benign (non-cancerous) conditions can affect a woman’s reproductive system, which includes the uterus, cervix, ovaries and fallopian tubes. Common conditions include: fibroids, which are benign 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 sex, and infertility.¹,²

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.
Your doctor may suggest a hysterectomy (removal of your uterus and possibly ovaries and fallopian tubes). A hysterectomy is the second most common surgery among women in the United States.¹ There are different ways your doctor can perform a hysterectomy, as explained below. All options should be discussed with your doctor.
**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 reach 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 surgeon operates through a few small incisions in your abdomen using a 3D HD vision system and wristed instruments that bend and rotate. da Vinci technology enables your surgeon to operate with enhanced vision, precision and control.

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

**Single-Site’/Single Incision:** Your hysterectomy can be done through a small incision (cut) in your belly button using single-incision traditional laparoscopy or da Vinci® Single-Site® Surgery. These procedures allow for virtually scarless results.*

* Single-Site is available for benign conditions.

** With minimally invasive surgery, there are various options for removing the uterus. Your surgeon will suggest the option he/she thinks is best for you.
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. Patients who choose da Vinci Single-Site Surgery experience virtually scarless results, like single incision traditional laparoscopy.

Early clinical data suggests da Vinci Single-Site Hysterectomy offers the following potential benefits:

- Low blood loss³,⁴,⁵,⁶
- Low complication rate³,⁴
- Low chance of blood transfusion⁴
- Low chance of surgeon switching to open surgery⁴,⁵,⁶
- Short hospital stay⁴,⁵
- Low post-operative pain⁶

Risks & Considerations Related to Hysterectomy, Benign (removal of the uterus and possibly nearby organs): injury to the ureters (the ureters drain urine from the kidney into the bladder), vaginal cuff problems (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. Uterine tissue may contain unsuspected cancer. The cutting or morcellation of uterine tissue during surgery may spread cancer, and decrease the long-term survival of patients.

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® 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 and www.intuitivesurgical.com.

da Vinci Surgery with Single-Site® 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® 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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The Enabling Technology: 
*da Vinci*® Surgical System with *Single-Site*® 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, precise movements of tiny instruments inside your body.

Though it is often called a “robot,” *da Vinci* cannot act on its own. Surgery is performed entirely by your doctor. The *da Vinci* System and *Single-Site*® instruments allow your doctor to remove your uterus, fallopian tubes and/or ovaries through a single incision, similar to single incision traditional laparoscopy.

To view a short animation video that shows what happens during surgery, go to: daVinciSurgery.com/SingleSiteHyst
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)

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