

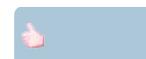
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## News Article



Wednesday, July 11, 2012

### JCMC upgrades to newest da Vinci Robotic Surgical System



**Chip Thomason, left, and Dr. Trey Robertson with the new da Vinci Robotic Surgical System at JCMC. This version of the da Vinci brings the latest technology to what was already state-of-the-art surgery.**

gold standard because of its great benefits. It enables surgeons to perform delicate and complex operations through a few tiny incisions with increased vision, precision, dexterity and control.

The surgeon sits at an ergonomically designed console to perform the operation, right next to a patient-side cart where the patient lies during surgery. There are four interactive robotic arms and a high-definition 3D vision system. State-of-the-art robotic technology allows the surgeon's hand movements to be scaled, filtered and translated into precise movements of instruments working inside the patient's body.

Thomason said JCMC has done nearly 900 da Vinci cases since getting the first machine. For the patient, these less invasive operations mean shorter hospitalization time, quicker return to normal activity, less pain and less blood loss than traditional open surgery or laparoscopy.

Dr. Trey Robertson is one of JCMC's 22 surgeons trained to use the da Vinci. He described da Vinci robotic surgery as "more

It's always a good thing when you can make the best even better. That's what Johnson City Medical Center has done with its new version of the da Vinci Robotic Surgical System.

JCMC basically traded in its da Vinci machine that was purchased in 2008 and bought a new da Vinci Si version with Single-Site Instrumentation. The machine has the latest 3D technology, is upgradeable and, among other things, allows surgeons to remove the gallbladder from a single incision in the belly button. It also has an EndoWrist One Vessel Sealer that gives surgeons full control of vessel sealing.

It offers greater precision, increased range of motion, enhanced dexterity and improved access to the gallbladder without harming surrounding structures. This technology also limits movement at the surgical site, minimizing trauma and postoperative pain.

"There is nothing better on the market," said Chip Thomason, senior specialty services coordinator of robotics at JCMC. "This is the latest and greatest. This allows true 3D images with the best quality. It allows you to get almost down to the cellular level. And there's a lot less blood loss."

After trade-in value on the 2008 machine, the new da Vinci came at a cost of about \$1.3 million, Thomason said. It's one of only 14 such new machines operating right now. Mountain States Health Alliance was the first organization in the region to offer da Vinci surgery and is the first to have this new version.

The da Vinci Surgical System has fast become the industry's

efficient, it's safer, and for the surgeon it's much easier. And with this new Single-Site surgery, it's essentially scarless gallbladder surgery."

The new machine means kidney surgery can be more precise. Rather than doing a full nephrectomy, or kidney removal, the surgeon can perform a partial nephrectomy to preserve more of the kidney tissue, which can help to prevent future kidney disease or even dialysis.

One other bonus: The new da Vinci also cuts down on set-up time for each surgery. What used to take 45 minutes to an hour can now be done in 15 to 30 minutes.

