



Holston Valley begins using da Vinci Surgical System, reinforcing Wellmont's leadership in robotics

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Dr. Herman and da Vinci 2

KINGSPORT – Performing a prostatectomy used to be a much more invasive surgery for Dr. James Herman (<http://www.wellmont.org/physDetails.aspx?CityName=Kingsport&pracid=HOLS+++286>), whose patients faced a much longer recuperation after the operation.

That was before Holston Valley Medical Center (<http://www.wellmont.org/Hospitals/Holston-Valley-Medical-Center.aspx>) recently acquired the da Vinci Surgical System (<http://www.wellmont.org/Medical-Services/Surgical-Services/da-Vinci-Robotic-Surgery.aspx>), a robotic method of performing operations that results in less pain, less blood loss, less scarring and faster recovery. The purchase was a result of an impressive collective effort among the hospital, the Wellmont Foundation (<http://www.wellmont.org/Wellmont-Foundation/Wellmont-Foundation/>), philanthropic business and individual donors committed to high-quality health care

“The difference the da Vinci system makes is incredible. It's becoming the No. 1 choice in the country for prostate surgery and produces remarkable results in the treatment of kidney and bladder cancers,” said Dr. Herman, a member of Holston Valley’s medical staff and a urologist with Urology Associates of Kingsport. “It reinforces Holston Valley’s position as the premier medical facility in Kingsport to receive advanced treatment and surgery.

“This breadth of care will only grow as more surgeons are trained to use da Vinci. It will enable us to help an even broader spectrum of patients.”

The system can be used to perform complex and delicate procedures with great accuracy while requiring smaller incisions. These include removal of cancers of the prostate, kidney and bladder; hysterectomies; and treatment of other benign and malignant gynecological conditions.

“We’re thrilled to provide this service to our patients as part of the comprehensive, high-quality care we deliver every day,” said Virginia Frank, Holston Valley’s president. “As Kingsport’s flagship hospital, we are at the forefront of technology and new treatments so our patients can heal faster and return to their families, friends and work sooner.”

Wellmont Health System (<http://www.wellmont.org>) is the region’s leader in robotic technology, with da Vinci systems at Holston Valley and Bristol Regional Medical Center

<http://www.wellmont.org/Hospitals/Bristol-Regional-Medical-Center.aspx>) and the CyberKnife Robotic Radiosurgery System (<http://www.wellmont.org/cyberknife/>) at Bristol Regional.

Holston Valley's da Vinci system is the most recent model available and includes a high-powered, three-dimensional camera, allowing surgeons a better view of the surgery field. It features multiple robotic arms, controlled by a surgeon, such as Dr. Herman, the region's only fellowship-trained genitourinary surgical oncologist, at a nearby console. Dr. Herman said Holston Valley picked a strategic and medically beneficial time to purchase da Vinci, when the instrumentation and surgical techniques of this system were mature.

Dr. Herman and Dr. Chris Mitchell (<http://www.wellmont.org/physDetails.aspx?CityName=Kingsport&pracid=HOLS+++552>), a gynecological surgeon, were the first two surgeons to use the system at Holston Valley, but the hospital plans for six to 10 more surgeons to begin using it.

"The da Vinci system bolsters our already outstanding surgery program," said Martha Chill, Holston Valley's chief operating officer. "It will make an enormous difference for our patients and showcase the talent of our physicians in an even more meaningful way."

Todd Norris, Wellmont's senior vice president of system advancement, said the addition of da Vinci at Holston Valley is another important milestone in the delivery of expert care at Wellmont's largest hospital.

Holston Valley acquired the da Vinci with generous donations from many philanthropic companies and individuals to the Wellmont Foundation. As not-for-profit health systems face financial challenges arising from changing reimbursement models and increasing mandates from governments, it is vital that community stakeholders assist in the enhancement of medical facilities and equipment to benefit their family, friends and neighbors, Norris said.

He said Holston Valley has grown in its regional leadership because of the financial support the community has shown since the hospital opened in 1935.

"These partnerships between not-for-profit health care and many outstanding people and organizations lead to a higher level of care for everyone," Norris said. "This desirable goal significantly boosts the quality of life for the communities we serve and gives our patients and their families even more confidence they are in superior hands at Holston Valley."

To learn more about da Vinci and Wellmont's other surgical services and ways to support Holston Valley, please visit [wellmont.org](http://www.wellmont.org) (<http://www.wellmont.org>).

Photos are available by clicking the cutlines below.

[Dr. James Herman stands next to the robotic arms of the da Vinci Surgical System at Holston Valley Medical Center.](http://wellmont.newsroom.meltwaterpress.com/photo?fid=4fa938b9013ba9457b005546) (<http://wellmont.newsroom.meltwaterpress.com/photo?fid=4fa938b9013ba9457b005546>)

[Dr. James Herman stands next to the robotic arms of the da Vinci Surgical System at Holston Valley Medical Center. A computer monitor in the background shows a close-up of the surgical site.](http://wellmont.newsroom.meltwaterpress.com/photo?fid=4fa938fc013ba9457b00554d) (<http://wellmont.newsroom.meltwaterpress.com/photo?fid=4fa938fc013ba9457b00554d>)

[Dr. James Herman peers through a high-powered camera to view the surgical site. From his position, Dr. Herman moves da Vinci's robotic arms. \(http://wellmont.newsroom.meltwaterpress.com/photo?fid=4fa9394c013ba9457b005554\)](http://wellmont.newsroom.meltwaterpress.com/photo?fid=4fa9394c013ba9457b005554)

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