



ABOVE: Gavin Clark and Dermot Collopy were the first surgeons in Australia to use an interactive orthopaedic robot.

GYNAECOLOGY/ GYNAECOLOGICAL ONCOLOGY

The da Vinci robot at the hospital is being used for gynaecological oncology surgeries, such as hysterectomies and removal of ovaries, fibroids and tumours.

It also allows the surgical removal of part of a malignant tumour to be undertaken via a minimally invasive approach, rather than a traditional large incision to enhance the effectiveness of radiation or chemotherapy (known as cancer debulking).

Gynaecological Oncologist Jason Tan said the robotic surgery provides benefits for patients with cervical cancer and severe endometriosis, as it enables surgery to be undertaken using less incisions, resulting in less pain, less scars and less recovery time.

"While it is still early days with gathering data on the robotic surgery, I am noticing that the technology provides me with better vision than laparoscopic surgery and improved dexterity," he said.

"It allows me to do more complex cases via a minimally invasive approach rather than having to perform traditional large incisions.

"There is also some evidence that suggests that when you compare laparoscopic surgery with robotic surgery, there can be less pain.

"The robotic technology enables the surgeon to operate in a more comfortable position, which is very beneficial during long complex surgery."

UROLOGY

Robotic urological surgery has been performed at the hospital since December 2007 for both prostate and renal cancers.

Urologists Richard Pemberton and Justin Vivian have been using the robot since its introduction.

Mr Justin Vivian said the robotic technology is ideal for complex cases as it provides surgeons with three-dimensional vision with 10 times magnification and high definition optics.

"The technology provides greater dexterity and comfort for surgeons," he said.

"For patients having their prostate removed early studies show an improved and earlier return of continence and erectile function."



TOP: Gynaecological Oncologist Jason Tan.
ABOVE: Urologist Justin Vivian undertaking robotic urological surgery.

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