Considering a Hysterectomy?

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

Many benign (non-cancerous) conditions can affect a woman’s reproductive system, including the uterus, cervix, ovaries and fallopian tubes.

Common benign conditions include: fibroids, which are 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 intercourse, 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 recommend a hysterectomy (removal of your uterus and possibly ovaries and fallopian tubes). About one-third of all U.S. women have a hysterectomy by age 60. There are different ways
to perform a hysterectomy, as detailed below. You should discuss all options with your doctor if he/she recommends a hysterectomy.

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

**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 see 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 uterus is also removed through a few small incisions (ports) in your abdomen. *da Vinci* technology provides your surgeon with enhanced vision, precision and control.

**Single-Site/Single Incision:** Your uterus can also be removed through a small incision in your belly button using single-incision traditional laparoscopy or *da Vinci* Single-Site® Surgery. These procedures allow for virtually scarless results.

![Open Surgery Incision](image1)
![*da Vinci* Surgery or Traditional Lap Surgery](image2)
![*da Vinci* Single-Site® & Single Incision Laparoscopy](image3)
With *da Vinci® Single-Site Surgery*, doctors remove your uterus and possibly your ovaries and fallopian tubes through your belly button using state-of-the-art instruments. Patients who choose *da Vinci® Single-Site Surgery* experience virtually scarless results, similar to single incision traditional laparoscopy.

As a result of *da Vinci®* technology, *da Vinci® Single-Site Hysterectomy* offers the following potential benefits:

- Low blood loss
- Low rate of converting to traditional laparoscopy and open surgery
- Low rate of complications
- Short hospital stay
- Small incision for virtually scarless results

**Risks & Considerations Related to Hysterectomy, including *da Vinci® Single-Site Surgery***:

Injury to the ureters (ureters drain urine from the kidney into the bladder), vaginal cuff problem (replaces cervix), 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. Patients undergoing a hysterectomy who have an undiagnosed cancer may be at risk of having cancer cells spread if the uterus is cut into pieces for removal.

**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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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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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, more 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. Together, 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. As a result, you may be able to get back to life without the usual recovery that follows major surgery.