

# Considering a Hysterectomy?

Learn more about  
**virtually scarless surgery** using  
**da Vinci® Single-Site®** technology



**da Vinci®**  **Surgery**

## Symptoms & Conditions:

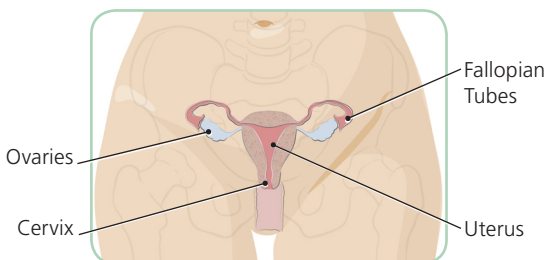
Chronic Pain, Heavy Bleeding, Fibroids, Endometriosis, Pelvic Prolapse

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.<sup>1,2</sup>

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.



# { The Surgery

## Hysterectomy

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.<sup>1</sup> There are different ways



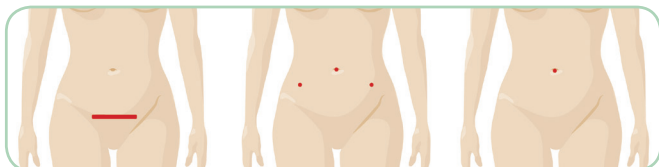
to perform a hysterectomy, as detailed below. You should discuss all options with your doctor if he/she recommends a hysterectomy.

**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

*da Vinci* Surgery  
or Traditional  
Lap Surgery

*da Vinci Single-Site*®  
& Single Incision  
Laparoscopy

# { *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 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<sup>3</sup>
- Low rate of converting to traditional laparoscopy and open surgery<sup>3</sup>
- Low rate of complications<sup>3</sup>
- Short hospital stay<sup>3</sup>
- Small incision for virtually scarless results<sup>3</sup>



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

Potential risks of any hysterectomy include:

- Blocked lung artery<sup>4</sup>
- Urinary tract injury<sup>4</sup>
- Blocked bowel<sup>4</sup>
- Pelvic abscess<sup>4</sup>
- Wound infection<sup>4</sup>

## Important Information for Patients

*da Vinci* Surgery with *Single-Site*® instrumentation is cleared for use in gallbladder removal, and for hysterectomy and ovary removal for benign conditions. Patients who bleed easily, have abnormal blood clotting, are pregnant or morbidly obese are not candidates for minimally invasive surgery, including *da Vinci* Surgery with *Single-Site*® Instruments. Research suggests there may be an increased risk of incision-site hernia with single-incision surgery.

All surgery presents risk, including *da Vinci* Surgery. Results, including cosmetic results, may vary. Serious complications may occur in any surgery, up to and including death. Examples of serious and life-threatening complications, which may require hospitalization, include injury to tissues or organs, bleeding, infection, and internal scarring that can cause long-lasting dysfunction or pain. Temporary pain or nerve injury has been linked to the inverted position often used during abdominal and pelvic surgery. Patients should understand that risks of surgery include potential for human error and potential for equipment failure. Risks specific to minimally invasive surgery may include: a longer operative time, the need to convert the procedure to other surgical techniques, the need for additional or larger incision sites, a longer operation or longer time under anesthesia than your surgeon originally predicts. Converting to open surgery could mean a longer operative time, long time under anesthesia, and could lead to increased complications. Other surgical approaches are available. Patients should review the risks of all surgical approaches and the risks of *da Vinci* procedures to decide if *da Vinci* Surgery is right for them. It is important to talk to your doctor about his/her surgical experience. For complete information on surgical risks, safety and indications for use, please refer to [www.davincisurgery.com/safety](http://www.davincisurgery.com/safety).

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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)**

<sup>1</sup> "Hysterectomy". Medline Plus; A Service of the U.S. National Library of Medicine – National Institutes of Health. Available from: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/hysterectomy.html>. <sup>2</sup> National Institutes of Health. Hysterectomy. Available from: <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/002915.htm>

<sup>3</sup> Cela V, Freschi L, Simi G, Ruggiero M, Tana R, Pluchino N. Robotic single-site hysterectomy: feasibility, learning curve and surgical outcome. Surg Endosc. 2013 Jul;27(7):2638-43. doi: 10.1007/s00464-012-2780-8. Epub 2013 Feb 8.

<sup>4</sup> Landeen LB, et al. Clinical and cost comparisons for hysterectomy via abdominal, standard laparoscopic, vaginal and robot-assisted approaches. S D Med. 2011 Jun;64(6):197-9, 201, 203 passim.

# **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, more precise movements of tiny instruments inside your body.

## ***da Vinci Single-Site Patient Incision***



**5 Minutes After Surgery**  
*(Real hysterectomy patient photo)*

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.