

da Vinci System Brings Next Generation Robotic-Assisted Surgery to St. Clair Hospital

Surgeons at St. Clair Hospital in Mt. Lebanon have started using the latest technology, the da Vinci Si, to provide the benefits of robotic-assisted, minimally invasive surgery to prostate cancer patients.

St. Clair urological surgeons Arthur D. Thomas, M.D. and Kevin P. Bordeau, M.D. both of whom have years of experience with the da Vinci System completed the Hospital's first robotic-assisted surgeries in April, performing radical prostatectomies (removal of part or all of the prostate gland) on area patients suffering from prostate cancer. With the da Vinci System, the patients had less pain and blood loss, a shorter hospital stay, and quicker recovery and return to everyday life, compared to traditional "open" surgery.

The da Vinci Si System manufactured by Intuitive Surgical, Inc. uses the most advanced technology to enable surgeons to perform delicate and complex operations through a few tiny incisions with increased vision, precision, dexterity and control.

The da Vinci System consists of four interactive robotic arms that are controlled by a surgeon who is positioned at a console in the operating room. Three of the arms are for tools, such as a scalpel and scissors, the fourth holds an endoscopic camera with two lenses that gives the surgeon a 3-D image at 10 times magnification of the patient during the procedure. The system seamlessly translates the surgeon's hand, wrist and finger movements into precise, real-time movements of surgical instruments. Every surgical maneuver is under the direct control of the surgeon.

The da Vinci is currently being used at St. Clair for patients who require prostatectomies or other urological procedures, but the system is also designed for gynecology, cardiothoracic, head and neck and general surgery procedures. Other surgeons at St. Clair are expected to begin using the new system in the near future.

Approximately 75 percent of prostate cancer surgeries in the United States are performed using robotic-assisted surgery. In the last two years, robotic-assisted prostatectomies have become the treatment choice for localized prostate cancer, supplanting open surgery and various radiation options.



Overall, St. Clair performs more than 11,000 surgical procedures annually. Sharp growth in recent years necessitated the construction of three new operating rooms at the Hospital's main campus in Mt. Lebanon. The rooms were specifically designed to accommodate advanced surgical equipment, such as the da Vinci Si.

For more information, please visit www.stclair.org.

A New Clinic for Women Veterans

VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System recently celebrated the opening of its new Healthy Women's Center at the University Drive Division in Oakland.

This \$1.6 million clinical space, opened on April 19, was designed to increase privacy, comfort and satisfaction for female Veterans. The 1,730-square-foot center's special features include a separate and private waiting area, a women's wellness resource center, a lactation area, large examination rooms, a children's play area and a sound system to play soothing music in exam rooms.

The center provides a comprehensive array of services, including:

- primary health care (acute, chronic and gender-specific)
- treatment and support for menopause
- cervical cancer screenings
- bone density studies
- contraception
- on-site mammography screenings
- behavioral health care
- spiritual services
- urogynecology (incontinence) treatment
- pre- and post-op care for gynecology surgery



The new Healthy Women's Center at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System

Visitors to the center also can enjoy a large display case at its entrance, which will showcase women Veterans' contributions to our country. For the opening ceremony in March, the display featured pictures of VAPHS female employees who honorably served.

For more information, visit www.va.gov.

New & Notable

Visual Field Screening Goes Mobile

Leading optometric physicians from around the world who convened at the SECO 2011 International Conference March 2-6, 2011 got an exclusive sneak peek of NovaVision's newest HMPTM (Head Mounted Perimetry) innovation – a portable, wireless, ADA-compliant device that aids in the professional assessment and early detection of Glaucoma, Amblyopia, and visual field deficits.

Vycor Medical, Inc., subsidiary NovaVision, Inc. (www.NovaVision.com) offers these Quick Facts about NovaVision's HMP (Head Mounted Perimetry) Visual Field Screener:

- Commercial instrument intended for on-site diagnostic optometric, medical and therapeutic trade use

- Rugged device is well-suited for Military use or missionary work

- Portable and ADA-compliant: use at satellite offices, hospitals, physicians' offices, rehabilitation centers, nursing homes, any exam room, and even missionaries

- Safely and effectively screens early detection of Visual Field Deficits

- Features include an intuitive touch screen user interface, 2 speed settings, and diamond shaped screening grid

- Uses a suprathreshold 3-zone strategy to produce a 60° x 44° field (horizontally and vertically, respectfully), which produces a report allowing physicians to evaluate whether patients have any suspect areas requiring further evaluation. Qualifies for CPT 92082

- Measures the visual field in increments of 4° as opposed to 6°, which allows physicians to detect disease states earlier than current market screening tools. (124 vs. 55076 points tested)

- User friendly - patients place the "goggles" over their eyes and hold a response button. They simply click the button whenever they see the fixation point change or when they see a stimuli appear anywhere in the field while remaining visually fixated on the central point

- Convenient for physicians, particularly those with multiple offices and/or seek to provide visual field testing from anywhere, at any time: from a patient's bedside, at the hospital, or on a missionary trip

Learn more by viewing related trade videos online at www.tinyurl.com/HMP-NV1 and www.tinyurl.com/HMP-NV2. For more information on NovaVision, visit www.NovaVision.com or call 888.205.0800.



HMPTM (Head Mounted Perimetry)

Do you have a child between 9 and 17 who seems sad, depressed, and irritable most of the time?

Has your child lost interest in things they used to enjoy?

Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh are looking for children and teens with depression to participate in a research study of social and emotional development. Participation involves computer tasks, an MRI scan to measure brain activity, and questionnaires and interviews about behaviors, feelings, and daily experiences. Compensation is provided.



University of Pittsburgh

For more information, and to see if your child qualifies to participate in this research study, call 412-383-5428.

