

The da Vinci Robotic Surgical System was implemented to provide a new category of minimally invasive surgery for patients at Salina Regional Health Center.

BY JOHN BERGGREN



THE ART OF SURGERY

da Vinci takes minimally invasive surgery to a new level

Minimally invasive surgery has become even more refined at Salina Regional Health Center with the addition of the *da Vinci* Robotic Surgical System early last fall. The new system combines computer and robotic technology

the robot are placed inside the patient, the surgeon takes control of the operation while seated at a console in the operating room viewing a 3-D image of the surgical field. Below the display, the surgeon's fingers grasp the master controls, which seamlessly translate the

"I talked with several people who had a prostatectomy the old way and my cousin who had the surgery done in Wichita with this new equipment," Katzenmeier says. "There's no question, if you have the option, this is the way to have it done."

and other treatments, but a large majority will benefit from this type of intervention."

ROBOTIC SURGERY A TREND FOR THE FUTURE

Aside from prostatectomy, urologists will also use the *da Vinci* for partial nephrectomies and pyeloplasty for urinary system blockages. Gynecologists have adopted use of the technology for hysterectomies, and general surgeons are implementing it for use during intricate procedures such as colon surgery. New techniques for many types of surgery are being developed to increase use of robotic technology.

"Just because patients hear the term 'robotic' they shouldn't assume physicians aren't actually performing the procedures," says Luanne Smith, Salina Regional Health Center's surgical services director. "The system cannot make decisions or perform any type of maneuver without a surgeon's direct input.

"It's just another tool for surgeons to utilize and it's another example of Salina Regional's commitment to providing state-of-the-art technology to the region." ■

A week after the procedure, Katzenmeier said his recovery was going better than expected.

"Even the next day after surgery I felt

pretty good," Katzenmeier says. "I haven't had to take nearly as much pain medicine as was prescribed to me and have had only minor discomfort."

Salina urologist Ryan Payne, M.D., who performed the surgery, says this will become the new standard for prostate cancer treatment that requires surgical intervention.

"Most younger patients will see prostatectomy with the *da Vinci* as the best treatment option," Payne says. "There will be a few who may not be candidates for the new technique because they've had previous abdominal surgeries and others who opt for radiation

"MOST YOUNGER PATIENTS WILL SEE PROSTATECTOMY WITH THE DA VINCI AS THE BEST TREATMENT OPTION." —RYAN PAYNE, M.D.



Ryan Payne, M.D.

with the skill of a surgeon to create a new category of surgical treatment.

The *da Vinci* is an alternative to both open surgery and traditional laparoscopy, allowing surgeons to perform even the most complex and delicate procedures through very small incisions with greater precision and a highly magnified view of the tissue being operated on. The precision allows for less tissue trauma at the incision sites, smaller incisions, fewer days in the hospital and quicker recoveries.

Once probes holding surgical instruments and cameras from

surgeon's hand, wrist and finger movements into precise, real-time movements of surgical instruments inside the patient.

A NEW STANDARD FOR PROSTATE SURGERY

The old standard for prostatectomy used an open procedure with a large incision that typically required a four-or-five-day hospital stay and a lengthy recovery. Sixty-two-year-old Dennis Katzenmeier, Ellsworth, was the first patient in Salina to undergo the procedure using the *da Vinci*. He was out of the hospital after only two days.