



St. Clair Hospital

NEWS RELEASE

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

PITTSBURGH, Pa. (April 25, 2011) — 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 this month, 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. “Among the many benefits of robotic-assisted surgery is the ability to do better surgical reconstruction,” says Dr. Thomas. “In men who have their prostates partially or fully removed, robotic-assisted surgery can mean a faster return to urinary continence and lower rates of urinary pain. And the closer you can dissect to the prostate,

the more nerve tissue you can spare, and the quicker the patient can recover and return to everyday life.”

Dr. Bordeau says other urological applications for the da Vinci system include repairing blockages in a kidney, and the full or partial removal of a kidney. “Like prostatectomies, these procedures also require very delicate work, which is the greatest strength of the da Vinci,” he says.

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.

About Dr. Thomas

Arthur D. Thomas, M.D. earned his medical degree at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and completed a residency in urology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Thomas is board certified by the American Board of Urology and practices as part of The Center for Urologic Care, P.C.

About Dr. Bordeau

Kevin P. Bordeau, M.D. earned his medical degree at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston and completed a residency in Urology at the Eastern Virginia Medical School. Dr. Bordeau is board certified by the American Board of Urology and practices as part of Sholder & Bordeau Urologic Associates.

About St. Clair Hospital

St. Clair Hospital is an independent, acute care facility that provides advanced, high quality health care to more than 400,000 residents of southwestern Pennsylvania. With 525 physicians and more than 2,000 employees, St. Clair is the largest employer in Pittsburgh's South Hills. Providing virtually every health care service that residents might need throughout their lives, the Hospital combines advanced technologies with exceptional medical expertise to ensure that the community's health needs are met. For more information, please visit www.stclair.org.