

Wellstar Douglas Urologist performs first robotic surgery



A urologist peered into a highly-magnified screen while manning WellStar Douglas Hospital's first robot. Gaspar Msangi, M.D. was in the driver's seat during the hospital's first robotic surgery, and the new da Vinci® Surgical System gave him an edge. With the da Vinci, physicians have high definition vision and robotic "wrists" that bend and rotate more precisely than the human hand.

"We're focused on giving WellStar patients access to the most advanced technology," said Bill Mayfield, M.D., chief surgical officer at WellStar Health System. "This sophisticated technology means patients typically spend less time in the hospital and recover faster."

The da Vinci robot makes incisions as tiny as a keyhole. As a result, patients who have robotic surgery typically experience less blood loss, complications, recovery pain and scarring. These

types of surgeries are considered minimally invasive.

"We're thrilled to be able to offer this advanced technology in Douglas County," said Craig Owens, president of Douglas Hospital. "We've worked to bring robotic surgery here for several years, and we know it is going to make a tremendous impact on our patients' lives."

The first robotic surgery at Douglas Hospital was a sacral colpopexy, a pelvic floor reconstruction. Douglas Hospital offers gynecologic and general surgery procedures on the da Vinci robot.

Dr. Msangi, the physician who performed the hospital's first robotic surgery, began performing these specialized procedures in 2013. He received his medical degree from the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine in Rochester, Minn. and he cares for patients at WellStar Medical Group's Urology

practice.

The da Vinci Surgical System is on a growing list of specialized services available at Douglas Hospital. The new STAT Clinic helps patients with lung and chest cancer get treatment started faster. The new Wound Care & Hyperbaric Center helps patients with diabetes who have had to drive long distances for highly specialized care in the past. And the new genetics program helps people make important treatment decisions and lower their risks for cancer.

"The robotics program will help us attract the next generation of surgeons to Douglasville," Owens said. "We also have a strong focus on recruiting more primary care physicians, vitally important for delivering world-class healthcare in this community."

For a surgeon referral in Douglasville and surrounding areas, call 770-956-STAR (7827).