

Improving Gynecologic Oncology Outcomes

CANCER CARE NORTHWEST UTILIZES THE DA VINCI SURGICAL SYSTEM TO ENHANCE OUTCOMES FOR GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY PATIENTS.



Dr. Grosen

TRADITIONALLY, GYNECOLOGIC CANCER surgical procedures have involved open surgeries with large incisions and difficult recoveries for patients. Gynecologists at Cancer Care Northwest utilize the minimally invasive da Vinci Surgical System to treat uterine cancer, cervical cancer, precancerous conditions and ovarian masses, as well as for risk-reduction procedures, resulting in improved outcomes for patients.

The robotic da Vinci Surgical System uses small incisions that are 1-2 centimeters in size to perform surgeries. The system provides the surgeon with enhanced visualization through a high definition, 3-D monitor and instrument console. This advanced equipment allows surgeons to perform more complex procedures using a minimally invasive approach for appropriate patients.

“For uterine and cervical patients, the best candidates have not had many abdominal surgeries or the cancer is contained in the pelvic region and is in its early stages,” says Elizabeth Grosen, M.D., gynecologic oncologist with Cancer Care Northwest. “Patients experience less blood loss and pain and have an overall lower risk of complications when they have da Vinci surgical procedures. It’s a great option for both younger and older patients. It also can be used for overweight individuals.”

Gynecology-Specific Benefits

In addition to the major benefits of less post-operative pain, faster recoveries and little scarring, the da Vinci Surgical System offers specific advantages when approaching gynecologic surgeries. When a hysterectomy is needed for endometrial cancer, the da Vinci Surgical System provides the surgeon with enhanced dexterity and visualization for dissection around the uterus and bladder and easier vaginal-cuff structural closure. When the patient requires surgical staging that involves the removal of lymph nodes, the da Vinci Surgical System provides enhanced visualization of tissue planes, allowing for meticulous dissection and visualization of these areas.

Cancer Care Northwest’s two gynecologic oncologists also administer chemotherapy to patients, allowing for a central point of care for patients.

Experience Counts

Cancer Care Northwest has the only two fellowship-trained gynecologic oncologists who are certified using da Vinci Surgical System in the area. Dr. Grosen completed four years of training in gynecologic oncology, making her an expert in gynecologic procedures.

“Most general gynecologists are not trained to perform extensive lymph node dissection for gynecologic cancers,” says Dr. Grosen. “Most of the data indicates that if the surgery is performed by a gynecologic oncologist, the outcomes are better and the patient’s chances of a cure and survival are higher.”

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“We have a process in place to provide comprehensive care to our patients,” says Dr. Grosen, “From the moment they enter our door, we are here to help them every step of the way. We have patient advocates from the American Cancer Society and all the needed specialties, including medical oncology, radiation oncology, surgical oncology, nutrition and counseling, to support patients and their families.”