

Thyroid Cancer Diagnosis?

Learn why **da Vinci® Surgery**
may be your best treatment option



da Vinci  **Surgery**

The Treatment: Thyroid Surgery

Your doctor will discuss treatment options with you in detail. Generally, treatments include: surgery, radioactive iodine treatment, thyroid hormone therapy, external beam radiation, or chemotherapy.³ Treatment plans often use two or more of these options, but surgery is the main treatment for all thyroid cancers.³

If you have a cancerous or potentially cancerous lesion, your doctor will most likely perform a thyroidectomy - removal of the thyroid gland. The size and location of the nodule will determine whether a thyroidectomy or thyroid lobectomy - removal of only part of the thyroid - is the best option.

For cancers smaller than 1 cm (½ inch) that show no signs of spreading, surgeons may remove only the affected side.³ When cancer has spread outside the thyroid, surgery is also used to remove nearby lymph nodes.



The two traditional surgical options for thyroid cancer are open and endoscopic surgery. Open surgery is considered effective but requires a 3.5 - 8 cm (1.4 - 3 inches) or larger incision in the neck, which can leave a visible scar.^{4,5} Also, the view into deeper structures of the neck containing delicate nerves is limited.⁶

Endoscopic thyroidectomy is minimally invasive and may be effective for selected patients, but it can also leave visible scarring; multiple, smaller incisions are used, with the largest being 1.5 - 3 cm (.6 - 1.2 inches).^{4,5}

One of the potential complications of thyroid surgery is voice change. Also, if most or all of your thyroid gland is removed, you will need to take daily thyroid hormone medication.⁷



**da Vinci Thyroidectomy
Incision**

**Open Surgery
Incision**

da Vinci Surgery for Thyroid Cancer: A Less Invasive Surgical Procedure

If your doctor recommends surgery to treat thyroid cancer, you may be a candidate for a safe, effective and minimally invasive procedure – *da Vinci* Surgery. Using the most advanced technology available, the *da Vinci* System enables your doctor to perform this delicate operation with breakthrough precision.

da Vinci provides your surgeon with superior vision, precision, dexterity and improved access. As a result, the visible scarring associated with traditional open surgery is avoided.

da Vinci Surgery offers thyroid cancer patients numerous potential benefits over traditional open surgery, including:

- › Superior cosmetic outcomes^{8,9}
- › No neck scars^{8,9}
- › Avoids laryngeal nerve injury⁸

As with any surgery, these benefits cannot be guaranteed, as surgery is patient- and procedure-specific.



The Enabling Technology: *da Vinci* Surgical System

The *da Vinci* Surgical System is designed to provide surgeons with enhanced capabilities, including high-definition 3D vision and a magnified view. Your doctor controls the *da Vinci* System, which translates his or her hand movements into smaller, more precise movements of tiny instruments inside your body.



Though it is often called a “robot,” *da Vinci* cannot act on its own. Instead, the surgery is performed entirely by your doctor. Together, *da Vinci* technology allows your doctor to perform complex procedures through just a few tiny openings. As a result, you may be able to get back to life faster without the usual recovery following major surgery.

The *da Vinci* System has been used successfully worldwide in hundreds of thousands of procedures to date.

¹World Health Organization. Global cancer rates could increase by 50% to 15 million by 2020. www.who.int. ²International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Declining donor support may jeopardize Red Cross Red Crescent thyroid cancer detection programme. <http://www.ifrc.org/docs/news/pr05/3405.asp>. ³American Cancer Society. Thyroid Cancer. www.cancer.org. ⁴Ruggieri M, Straniero A, Mascaro A, et al. The minimally invasive open video-assisted approach in surgical thyroid diseases. *BMC Surg*. 2005 Published online 2005 April 27. doi: 10.1186/1471-2482-5-9. ⁵Brunaud L et al. Incision Length for Standard Thyroidectomy and Parathyroidectomy When Is It Minimally Invasive? *Arch Surg*. 2003;138:1140-1143. ⁶Robotic Thyroidectomy. A new option for thyroid surgery that doesn't leave a neck scar. www.EndocrineWeb.com. ⁷American Thyroid Association. Thyroid Surgery. www.thyroid.org ⁸Sang-Wook K et al. Robot-assisted endoscopic surgery for thyroid cancer: experience with the first 100 patients. Accepted: 12 January 2009 *Springer Science+Business Media*. ⁹Terris DJ, Amin SH; Robotic and endoscopic surgery in the neck; *Operative Techniques in Otolaryngology* (2008) 19, 36-41

The Condition:

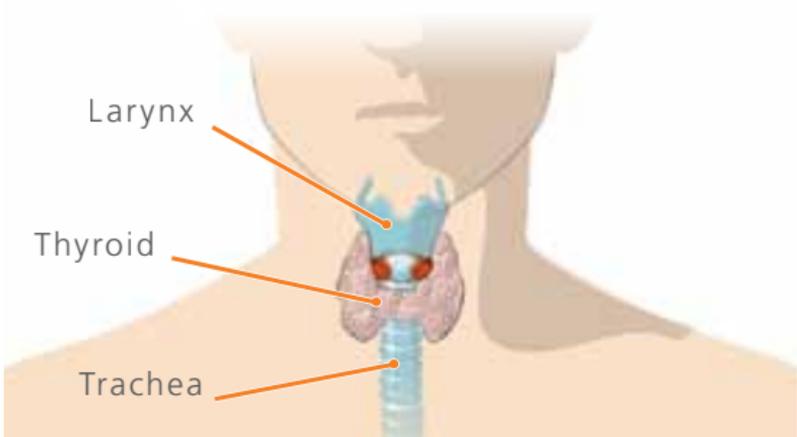
Thyroid Cancer

Your thyroid is a butterfly-shaped gland located at the base of your neck. Using the essential nutrient iodine, your thyroid produces hormones that regulate every aspect of your metabolism - from your heart rate to how quickly you burn calories.

Worldwide, thyroid cancer affects 123,000 people a year¹ and this number is expected to rise.² Women are affected by this disease more than men.³ It is usually diagnosed between ages of 30 and 50.³ Fortunately, when caught early, most thyroid cancer responds well to treatment.³

The exact cause of thyroid cancer is unknown, and there are few known risk factors.³ However, the disease is more common where iodine consumption is very low and in adults with a history of head or neck radiation.³

Thyroid cancer is often diagnosed after lumps are found by the patient or during a routine exam.³ Other symptoms may include: pain that extends to the ears, hoarseness, trouble swallowing, breathing problems and a persistent and unexplained cough.³



**Your doctor is one of a growing
number of surgeons offering
da Vinci Surgery for Thyroid Cancer.**

For more information about
da Vinci Surgery and to find a
surgeon near you, visit:

www.daVinciSurgery.com

