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

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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 year and this number is expected to rise. Women are affected by this disease more than men. It is usually diagnosed between ages of 30 and 50. Fortunately, when caught early, most thyroid cancer responds well to treatment.

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

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

Thyroid Cancer
Diagnosis?
Learn why da Vinci Surgery may be your best treatment option

Thyroid
Larynx
Trachea
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.1 Treatment plans often use two or more of these options, but surgery is the main treatment for all thyroid cancers.9

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

Though it is often called a “robot,” da Vinci cannot act on its own. Instead, the surgery is performed entirely by 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.8

The Enabling Technology: da Vinci Surgical System

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Whether a thyroidectomy or thyroid lobectomy - removal of the thyroid gland. The


dea 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.

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

› Superior cosmetic outcomes0,8,9
› No neck scars0,8,9
› Avoids laryngeal nerve injury8

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

While clinical studies support the effectiveness of the da Vinci® Surgical System when used in minimally invasive surgery, individual results may vary. Surgery with the da Vinci® Surgical System may not be appropriate for every individual. Always ask your doctor about all treatment options, as well as their risks and benefits.

References

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Editorial: The enabling technology: da Vinci Surgical System

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.
The Treatment: Thyroid Surgery

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For cancers smaller than 1 cm (½ inch) that show no signs of spreading, surgery is performed using a minimally invasive open incision. The incision is typically less than 1 inch, and the area of the incision is largely covered by a surgical dressing. The incision heals over a period that varies depending on your body, but generally within one week. You will need to wear daily thyroid hormone medication.

For cancers larger than 1 cm (½ inch) that show no signs of spreading, surgeons may remove the nearby lymph nodes.

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