





## ***A Roundtable Discussion: Exploring Hysterectomy Options***

### ***A da Vinci® Patient's Story (zenyatta5)***

November 12, 2009

<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>Let's go!</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>Welcome to our da Vinci Roundtable tonight!</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>We are so glad you are here.</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>We hope this roundtable discussion will provide information for hysterectomy options</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>Often, we are limited in our medical choices by lack of information and what may be an option.</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>We hope to encourage our audience members to learn as much as they can about their diagnosis and explore non-hysterectomy alternatives as well as explore hysterectomy options.</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>Tonight you are going to hear from a HysterSisters member who needed a hysterectomy after Lupron was unsuccessful in treating her endometriosis..</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>Tonight's Roundtable discussion focuses on the topic of da Vinci Hysterectomy as a hysterectomy option.</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>We have a da Vinci representative in the discussion with us tonight.</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>And da Vinci is our sponsor tonight.</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>If you have questions for our da Vinci rep, please remember that this is only for general information and you will not be given personal answers that could be considered medical advice</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>And at the end of tonight's roundtable, we hope you will be encouraged to take further steps to gather all the information you need for your medical decisions</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>Because da Vinci is still relatively new and is something our doctors may not have experience with, we wanted to provide you with a bit more insight.</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>Here's how tonight's Roundtable will work:</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>Two of our HysterSisters hostesses, Weiser and LookingforaSis, will be interviewing zenyatta5, a HysterSisters member who has had the da Vinci hysterectomy procedure and will share her experiences.</b>
<b>zenyatta5</b>	<b>My doctor referred me to a surgeon for a hysterectomy</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>We also have dominiquee, a representative from da Vinci surgery, who will be able to share some important statistics and other information about the surgery.</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>And I will be stepping in on occasion to ask the audience a few questions.</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>When I ask a question of (((HysterSisters))), that is a question for the members of our audience.</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>This Roundtable will be moderated.</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>That means that every comment you type will be held in a queue and will appear in the chat window when it fits in.</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>If you can make note of your questions and save them for the right moment, that would help me make sure things go a bit more smoothly!</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>Let's get started! Weiser and LookingforaSis, it's all yours!</b>
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>Zenyatta5, tell us a little about yourself.</b>
<b>zenyatta5</b>	<b>I am a 46 year old single woman. I am a speech therapist</b>
<b>zenyatta5</b>	<b>I have two dogs of my own - a golden retriever and a husky</b>
<b>zenyatta5</b>	<b>we live with my mother and her two dogs</b>

zenyatta5	my hobbies are horse racing, reading books and taking long walks with my dogs
Weiser	Dominiquee, can you tell us about yourself and your relationship with da Vinci?
dominiquee	I work in the marketing dept at Intuitive Surgical® and I help to educate surgeons on using this advanced technology.**
fritzi64	((HysterSisters)) members, can you share with us one question that you hope to have answered during our time together this evening?
fritzi64	Remember ((HysterSisters)) means that we want to hear from you!
dietcokelover	how was the recovery from the DaVinci method?
flygal	can the da vinci help adenomyosis?
speppers	I am not familiar with the divinci at all. I would like to know what it is and how it works
AZ camping nut	Did she keep her ovaries?
lattenut	What can I do to prepare ahead of time for my surgery?
Debeedo	what is the difference between the daVinci and a laparoscopic hysterectomy?
lcarney	What is adenomyosis?
nearelieff	no question, here to support had a da vinci tlh bso 1.5 yrs ago
prplpnutbutr fly	Can it be used to remove 12 cm fibroid and 16 week preg sized uterus?
fritzi64	Thank you for sharing that. As you'll see on our agenda (scroll down below the chat window), you should find the answers to a lot of these questions here tonight.
LookingforASis	Zenyatta5, what brought you to the hysterectomy experience?
zenyatta5	I was diagnosed with endometriosis three years ago and was put on lupron. It quit working this spring. I was referred to a surgeon to discuss my options. He suggested that the davinvci was a good idea for me
zenyatta5	The endometriosis was throughout my abdomen aas well as my uterus and cervix
zenyatta5	The doctor felt the only way to get rid of it was to do a total hyst using the davinci procedure
zenyatta5	i wanted this procedure becuae the results were better and healing time was quicker
zenyatta5	and my doctor felt that is would be the best way to get all the endometriosis
Weiser	Dominiquee, could you explain how the da Vinci Surgical System works?
dominiquee	The da Vinci System has three main parts—a surgeon console, patient side cart and vision system.

fritzi64	
dominique	<p>The surgeon console, where the surgeon sits during surgery, allows him/her to see inside the patient's body with a camera.</p>
fritzi64	
dominique	<p>That camera provides 3D HD vision with 10x magnification vision and allows the surgeon to "intuitively" manipulate the surgical instruments with extreme precision. The instruments are under the surgeon's complete control at all times.</p>
fritzi64	
fritzi64	
dominique	<p>The patient side cart (sometimes referred to as the "robot") consists of 4 "arms" that hold the camera and up to three multi-functional instruments that respond to the surgeon's precise manipulations.</p>
dominique	<p>Lastly, there is a vision system that processes the 3D image and projects it to both the surgeon and the rest of the staff in the OR suite. That gives everyone a view of what's happening inside this minimally invasive environment.**</p>
LookingforaS is	<p>Dominique, what are some of the benefits of da Vinci Surgery as opposed to other hysterectomy options, especially for a woman with endometriosis?</p>
dominique	<p>daVinci Surgery provides the surgeon with numerous features which</p>

	<p>complement or enhance their surgical ability, all of which lead to faster recovery with less pain for the patient. By using miniature instruments to perform the surgery, the surgeon can work through extremely small incisions in the abdomen.</p>
fritzi64	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Laparoscopic Surgery</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimally invasive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Ability to operate through small, keyhole incisions</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Better visualization than open surgery</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">Open Vertical Incision      Open Transverse Incision      Laparoscopic or da Vinci® Incision</p>
dominiquee	<p>Those instruments are even more flexible than the human wrist – which is very important when it comes to handling any difficulties with the patient’s anatomy, such as an enlarged uterus, prior surgeries, or especially endometriosis.</p>
fritzi64	
dominiquee	<p>The extremely small incisions and dexterity provided by the daVinci instruments allow for dramatically less blood loss, fewer complications, and a substantially faster recovery relative to traditional open surgery (not to mention no large scars.) The additional range of motion, 3D vision and 10x magnification provide substantially more precision and control than laparoscopy, again contributing to superior patient outcomes.**</p>
Weiser	<p>Many endometriosis experts have a strong preference for either a laser or a scalpel to excise endometriosis. What are biggest concerns with these in regards to the da Vinci system?</p>
dominiquee	<p>Vision and the ability to access all locations which contain endometriosis are the keys to proper excision. The 3D vision and 10 times magnification of the surgical field as well as the range of motion provided by the daVinci instruments give the daVinci surgeon a substantial advantage over lasers or scalpels during surgery.**</p>

fritzi64	<b>((HysterSisters))), how many of you have sought a second opinion?</b>
kaysus1973	<b>I have</b>
speppers	<b>I have an appt next month</b>
Debeedo	<b>how about 4 opinions!!</b>
kaysus1973	<b>I got my first in Feb and my 2nd today and scheduled my surg for Dec 31 with the davinci</b>
nearelief	<b>my second opinion was from Dr arnold Advincula the head surgeon of university of michigan's endo center</b>
fritzi64	<b>We know from a voluntary poll on Hystersisters that fewer than half our members have gotten a second opinion.</b>
fritzi64	<b>We, at HysterSisters, think this means our members aren't necessarily getting all options explored</b>
fritzi64	<b>One of our goals at HysterSisters.com is to encourage our members to be the best self-advocates they can be.</b>
fritzi64	<b>You deserve and owe it to yourself to explore all your treatment options</b>
zenyatta5	<b>I prepared for my surgery by reading information about it online and asking my doctor lots and lots of questions until I felt comfortable.</b>
fritzi64	<b>As women, we often have great loyalty to our doctors. But we deserve to explore other options. It is not a backhand to our doctors.</b>
fritzi64	<b>Doctors will usually only tell us what they have the most experience with - and they may not specialize in minimally invasive or alternative treatment options.</b>
fritzi64	<b>There is no need to feel disloyal for asking other surgeons for input.</b>
fritzi64	<b>Even a hysterectomy is not a cure for endometriosis, so it is very good to know all you can about this condition and also surround yourself with knowledgeable medical professionals.</b>
Weiser	<b>Zenyatta5, how did you prepare yourself for the surgery?</b>
zenyatta5	<b>I prepared for my surgery by rading information about it online and asking my doctor lots and lots of questions until I felt comfortable.</b>
LookingforaS is	<b>How did your surgery go?</b>
zenyatta5	<b>My surgery went very well. I did wake up in a lot of pain at first</b>
zenyatta5	<b>and due to reactions to alot of pain meds, they had a hard time at first getting it under control but it did work</b>
Weiser	<b>Was your doctor able to take care of any of the endometriosis during your surgery?</b>
zenyatta5	<b>My doctor removed the endo through excision. He is one who feels that if he can get the endo out he does.</b>
zenyatta5	<b>He was very thorough in trying to remove all of it so it wouldn't reoccur</b>
LookingforaS is	<b>Was your doctor able to remove the endometriosis from your bladder as well?</b>
Kathy	<b>Yes</b>
LookingforaS is	<b>How was your initial recovery in the hospital?</b>
zenyatta5	<b>I am allergic to most narcotics. Surgery went well and I woke up shaking</b>
zenyatta5	<b>my musclew were just shaking form the surgery</b>
zenyatta5	<b>Then the pain came and they game me meds. Within two minutes I began itching - allergic reaction</b>
zenyatta5	<b>Gave me an IV of benadryl - put me to sleep immediately.</b>
zenyatta5	<b>My worst problem was intense shoulder pain</b>
zenyatta5	<b>I tried Gas X with some relief but still hurting</b>
zenyatta5	<b>I found that going to my chiropractor for an adjustment helped.</b>

	<b>That finally got rid of the pain</b>									
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>Dominiquee, zenyatta5's surgery went well, but some of our members have asked about conversions. I understand that means starting out with a planned da Vinci Surgery but then the surgeon has to change to abdominal surgery.</b>									
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>Yes, that is true</b>									
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>sometimes the surgeons decide during surgery to convert the case</b>									
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>due to several reasons</b>									
<b>fritzi64</b>	<p><b>Conversions</b></p> <p><b>Hysterectomy Benign Conversion Rate</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Surgery Type</th> <th>Conversion Rate</th> <th>Sample Size (n)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>da Vinci</td> <td>4%</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lap</td> <td>9%</td> <td>100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><small>OB Time (LEFT) and Conversion rate (RIGHT); Payne TG, Dachtler F. A comparison of total laparoscopic hysterectomy to robotically assisted hysterectomy surgical outcomes in a controlled practice. J Minim Invasive Gynecol. 2009 Nov;22(1):28-31.</small></p> <p><small>INTUITIVE</small></p>	Surgery Type	Conversion Rate	Sample Size (n)	da Vinci	4%	100	Lap	9%	100
Surgery Type	Conversion Rate	Sample Size (n)								
da Vinci	4%	100								
Lap	9%	100								
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>Could you provide any statistics on how often that happens with da Vinci Surgery and how it compares to traditional laparoscopic surgery?</b>									
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>((((HysterSisters))), what questions do you have about who is and is not a candidate for a da Vinci hysterectomy?</b>									
<b>speppers</b>	<b>Is this an option for someone with a lot of scar tissue? I have been told by my doctor I would have to have abdominal, vaginal was not an options.</b>									
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>as you see from the above study, conversions happen less frequently with the daVinci than with laparoscopy</b>									
<b>flygal</b>	<b>is da vinci effective with adenomyosis???</b>									
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>Adhesions are common with patients having multiple surgeries. Studies have proven that the chance of having a conversion with the da Vinci is very low.**</b>									
<b>LookingforaS is</b>	<b>Dominiquee, are there any situations where robotic surgery is not the best option for someone?</b>									
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>This is a question only your surgeon can answer, but we have found that daVinci surgery is often an option, even in complex cases, where surgeons would not normally be able to use a laparoscopic approach.**</b>									
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>If this is such a great option, why are the other types of procedures still being done?</b>									
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>da Vinci Surgery was approved by the FDA for GYN applications in 2005 and we've spent the past 4 years training GYNs to translate their surgical skills into the dVS minimally invasive environment. While virtually all OB/GYNs perform hysterectomies, many are not trained in minimally invasive techniques because they don't do</b>									

	<b>enough surgeries to make it worth their time.</b>
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>There are hundreds of hospitals in the US with dVS programs, but not every GYN has access to a system or is even aware of the technology at this point. We're changing that every day, but it takes time to adopt a new technology into our healthcare system.**</b>
<b>LookingforaSis</b>	<b>Zenyatta5, can you tell us how your recovery has gone?</b>
<b>zenyatta5</b>	<b>I returned to work at three weeks post surgery. I learned one thing - listen to my body. I overdid it the first day at work and spent the rest of the night with a heating pad on and taking ibuprofen throughout the night. My other complication has been an allergic reaction to something - we don't know what - that caused the itching and redness in my pubic area and then a fungal infection as well.</b>
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>Zenyatta5, what has your doctor said about the recurrence of your endometriosis?</b>
<b>zenyatta5</b>	<b>My doctor does not feel that I will have a reoccurrence on endo as he says he got it all. So far, I have not had any symptoms that seem like endo</b>
<b>Kathy</b>	<b>Dominiquee, what are the best questions to ask a doctor about recovery care specific to the robotic surgery?</b>
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>I like the new "Checkpoints" section on HysterSisters. It covers all the bases.**</b>
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>Zenyatta5, do you feel the da Vinci surgery was the right option for you?</b>
<b>zenyatta5</b>	<b>I would definitely say this was the best way to have it done</b>
<b>LookingforaSis</b>	<b>Dominiquee, let's say that someone who's here tonight wants to learn more about whether dVH is a good option for her in dealing with her endometriosis. What should she do?</b>
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>Online you can visit <a href="http://www.daVinciHysterectomy.com">www.daVinciHysterectomy.com</a> or <a href="http://www.daVinciStories.com">www.daVinciStories.com</a>; we encourage women to get an opinion (1st, 2nd, 3rd) from a trained da Vinci surgeon—only they can evaluate if you are a candidate for da Vinci Surgery. Multiple opinions will give you a better understanding of all factors and surgical options, but chances are, you are a candidate.**</b>
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>What information and resources do you have on your da Vinci website—especially for women with endometriosis?</b>
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>You can read/watch stories from other da Vinci Surgery patients, locate a surgeon by putting in your zip code, find clinical data references of additional studies, and read more about common GYN symptoms, conditions and treatment options.**</b>
<b>LookingforaSis</b>	<b>Many women on our website feel that endometriosis-related surgery is best with an endometriosis specialist, with the endometriosis knowledge even more important than the tools needed. Can you direct our</b>
<b>LookingforaSis</b>	<b>members to endometriosis resources they can use in conjunction with what is on your website?</b>
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>Ask your doctor and try web md**</b>
<b>LookingforaSis</b>	<b>What are the most common concerns and questions that women have about the da Vinci Hysterectomy?</b>
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>what is it - is a common question as well as: are they eligible</b>
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>some women with higher BMIs or with previous surgeries often think they would not be considered for daVinci surgery</b>
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>but especially this group profits</b>
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>benefits</b>
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>Zenyatta5, is there anything else you would like to say about your hysterectomy experience?</b>

zenyatta5	[u]Yes I feel like this was a good experience for me and the best way to go
LookingforaS is	Weiser, you are a hostess in our Endometriosis Forum. Based on what you've read from women here, what are the most important questions for a woman to research before having a hysterectomy for endometriosis?
Weiser	How have you been diagnosed?
Weiser	Have you considered an endometriosis specialist?
Weiser	What options have you considered?
Weiser	Lupron?
Weiser	Birth control?
Weiser	Depo Proevra?
Weiser	aromatase inhibitors?
Weiser	excision?
Weiser	If you are having surgery, can your surgeon skillfully excise the endo?
Weiser	Where are your endo implants? Depending on the location, other surgeons may need to be in OR
Weiser	such as a bowel surgeon, urologist, etc.
Weiser	Have you discussed what is best for you hormonal? Having an oophorectomy is not always necessary with an endometriosis diagnosis so know your options.
LookingforaS is	Weiser, could you also share with our members what information and resources do we have on the HysterSisters website?
Weiser	sure
Weiser	There are numerous things that can help you understand all your options or start you in the right direction.
Weiser	If you aren't sure about what's out there or what you are scheduled for than you can post on forums to give you insight and direction. Review the Pre-Op Checkpoints that give you definitions and information on all varieties of hysterectomies and preparation for them.
Weiser	Review the Pre-Op Checkpoints that give you definitions and information on all varieties of hysterectomies and preparation for them. We have an entire section on Endometriosis in our Resource Database: <a href="http://www.hystersisters.com/vb2/link.php?do=browse&amp;cid=6">http://www.hystersisters.com/vb2/link.php?do=browse&amp;cid=6</a> . We also have an Endometriosis Support forum for members both pre and post hysterectomy: <a href="http://www.hystersisters.com/vb2/forumdisplay.php?s=&amp;daysprune=-1&amp;f=236">http://www.hystersisters.com/vb2/forumdisplay.php?s=&amp;daysprune=-1&amp;f=236</a> Good websites include those of endometriosis specialists, Endometriosis.org, and th
Kathy	be careful about clicking links in here - you will leave the chatroom immediately! lol
Weiser	and the ERC site, endocenter.org
fritzi64	WE will be posting the transcripts of this roundtable tomorrow, and the links will be available there as well.
Weiser	We have a list of some specialists at the top of the Endo forum: <a href="http://www.hystersisters.com/vb2/showthread.php?t=334105">http://www.hystersisters.com/vb2/showthread.php?t=334105</a> . Of course there are links to the da Vinci site from HysterSisters. For the brave of heart you can watch videos of various surgeries.
fritzi64	We'd like to move on now to your questions.
fritzi64	You can ask dominiquee or zenyatta5
fritzi64	and a few of you have already posted questions
fritzi64	((HysterSisters))), what questions do you have?
flygal	You have talked about the da vinci method with regard to endometriosis, has there been any evidence of it being helpful with

	<b>adenomyosi??</b>
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>it is also applicable for that procedure!</b>
<b>speppers</b>	<b>Is this good for people with all types of problems or mainly endometriosis?</b>
<b>flygal</b>	<b>Thanks!</b>
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>maybe you want to check the daVinci homepage to get further information</b>
<b>AZ camping nut</b>	<b>How long was your hospital stay with the daVinci procedure?</b>
<b>zenyatta5</b>	<b>[u]I was in the hospital overnight and was released the next day in the afternoon</b>
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>Yes, anything that can be done surgically can be done with the daVinci**</b>
<b>flygal</b>	<b>Were you able to keep your ovaries?</b>
<b>zenyatta5</b>	<b>[u]No my doctor removed everything due to endo near the ovaries as well</b>
<b>flygal</b>	<b>does most insurance cover the da vinci method?</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>Remember, if you have questions for our da Vinci rep, please remember that this is only for general information and you will not be given personal answers that could be considered medical advice</b>
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>It is coded (reimbursed) the same as an laparoscopic procedure</b>
<b>speppers</b>	<b>How can you find doctors in our area that specialize in the Da Vinci method?</b>
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>yes, most insurance plans will cover it</b>
<b>Nory</b>	<b>i just loged on..i have endo in the uterus and fibroid in cervix..is the da vinci good 4 me?</b>
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>there is a daVinci surgeon locator on our website</b>
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>your doctor is the only on who can determine if you are a candidate but I have no reason to believe you would not be</b>
<b>flygal</b>	<b>what if you have been diagnosed with a large uterus, can da vinci be helpful in removing endometriosis/adenomyosis?</b>
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>The technology of da Vinci Surgery allows your doctor to operate on large uteri as well as on small uteri. In fact, this is one of the unique benefits of daVinci Surgery. Clinical data shows the average uterine size (here mentioned in weight) that da Vinci surgeons are able to operate on is much larger than the average uterine size in a normal Laparoscopic procedure.</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>What other questions do you have for dominiquee and zenyatta5?</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>(((HysterSisters))), how many of you are scheduled to have a da Vinci hysterectomy?</b>
<b>2manyPuzzles</b>	<b>what are the chances that other organs would be hit during this procedure?</b>
<b>AZ camping nut</b>	<b>I am on Dec 30th</b>
<b>kaysus1973</b>	<b>I am scheduled to have one on Dec. 31 at the Cleveland Clinic</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>Happy New Year to you, kaysus1973!</b>
<b>flygal</b>	<b>Good luck AZ camping nut...come back and share your experience with us</b>
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>As the surgeon has a 10x magnification and a 3D view of the surgical field, things like that should NOT happen:-)</b>
<b>AZ camping nut</b>	<b>I will! Thanks! :)</b>
<b>kaysus1973</b>	<b>What a great way to send out the old year and ring in the new!</b>
<b>lcarney</b>	<b>My Dr mentioned doing a rectal repair, while she is doing the vaginal hysterectomy. Can you tell me what this might consist of?</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>Okay, I've removed the moderation, so we can move into a more informal chat.</b>

<b>gmy123</b>	<b>Mine is scheduled for December 2nd. The day before my 40th B-day.</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>First, I'd like to acknowledge and thank some folks.</b>
<b>lattenut</b>	<b>I am scheduled Jan. 8.</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>[b]Thank you, dominiquee, for visiting us here at HysterSisters to provide us with information.</b>
<b>speppers</b>	<b>Carney you and I are on the same boat.. talking of putting my bladder in asling too. not sure i want to go through all that at once</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>[b]Zenyatta5, thank you for opening up your life to share your experiences with everyone tonight who is facing a hysterectomy.</b>
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>You are very welcome! Happy to be here!</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>[b]Weiser and LookingforaSis, thank you for conducting the interviews.</b>
<b>flygal</b>	<b>well, i've learned a lot. In my haste to be rid if the pain and excessive bleeding..I think I should get a 2nd opinion and inquire about da vinci</b>
<b>zenyatta5</b>	<b>[u]you are welcome. I hope this helps other people</b>
<b>speppers</b>	<b>me too</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>[b](((HysterSisters))), thank you all for being here, for caring enough about yourselves to make the effort to learn just a bit more about your options.</b>
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>a second opinion is VERY wise!</b>
<b>flygal</b>	<b>Thank you!!!</b>
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>and if you have endo, an endo specialist is best</b>
<b>flygal</b>	<b>I have adenomyosis</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>We'll leave the chatroom open for a while.</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>Please continue to ask questions.</b>
<b>flygal</b>	<b>and a very enlarged uterus</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>I hope it's okay if I put tauruslady on the spot, but she also had a da Vinci hysterectomy.</b>
<b>gmy123</b>	<b>I went to 4 different doctors until I decided to get the davinci procedure. I am very glad i did. I am going into the surgery with more knowledge.</b>
<b>tauruslady</b>	<b>hi everyone, my surgery was for endometrial cancer</b>
<b>speppers</b>	<b>How are you doing?</b>
<b>tauruslady</b>	<b>If you want to ask questions I'm okay with that, I've also had a chance to see the daVinci up close as well.</b>
<b>prplpnutbutr fly</b>	<b>What about a 16 week preg sized uterus with at least one 12cm fibroid on the top - is this type a surgery an option</b>
<b>tauruslady</b>	<b>I am doing well, I am getting close to my year anniversary (it was 11/24 of last year).</b>
<b>flygal</b>	<b>God Bless you</b>
<b>speppers</b>	<b>recovery went well?</b>
<b>tauruslady</b>	<b>Prplpnutbutrfly - Checking with a doctor that does daVinci would be the best way to go. They really are the only ones that can tell.</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>Yes, tauruslady, could you tell us about the da Vinci equipment? What did you get to see and do?</b>
<b>dVs Rep JC</b>	<b>Again, only your doctor can determine if you are a candidate, but daVinci has been used to remove very large uteri as well as very large (and numerous) fibroids</b>
<b>tauruslady</b>	<b>Speppers - my recovery from the surgery went well. I did have some issues becuae I went into surgical menopause.</b>
<b>flygal</b>	<b>may I ask your age?</b>
<b>tauruslady</b>	<b>That wasn't related to the daVinci that was related to loosing my ovaries :)</b>
<b>tauruslady</b>	<b>I was 50 at the time and not menopausal.</b>
<b>tauruslady</b>	<b>As for seeing the equipment, it really was amazing.</b>
<b>speppers</b>	<b>I have numerous internal fibroids and a 8cm fibroid at the top of</b>

	<b>mine too.. trying to decide if I even want to have surgery</b>
<b>tauruslady</b>	<b>Having no surgical experience I was able to sit at the console and learn how to move the arms, actually taught me how to tie a suture (although it wasn't very neat)</b>
<b>prplpnutbutr fly</b>	<b>speppers - if you wait it just gets more painfull and uncomfortable</b>
<b>tauruslady</b>	<b>Speppers - talk to some Drs. Fibroids don't always shrink at menopause and they can cause other issues pressure and such.</b>
<b>dVs Rep JC</b>	<b>speppers: If keeping your uterus is important, have you considered a myomectomy?</b>
<b>tauruslady</b>	<b>The magnification is amazing and I have heard that some hospitals are now installing systems that have 2 consoles so 2 surgeons can do the surgery.</b>
<b>speppers</b>	<b>yes.. I already have some issues with my bladder I want no more children I will be 45 in FEB.</b>
<b>Kathy</b>	<b>tauruslady, I got to do a test drive on two consoles.</b>
<b>Kathy</b>	<b>It was amazing</b>
<b>tauruslady</b>	<b>It sounds pretty wild!</b>
<b>tauruslady</b>	<b>I know from seeing the one console the 2 has to be quite impressive.</b>
<b>speppers</b>	<b>but I had a c section when i had my son .. my bladder was cut during that and I worry about having surger again.</b>
<b>tauruslady</b>	<b>Speppers - hugs and there are risks with any surgery.</b>
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>you are a good candidate, acrtually as daVinci does very well in cases with previous surgeries</b>
<b>tauruslady</b>	<b>The hope would be with the 10x magnification that the surgeon would have better vision and such but there are always risks</b>
<b>speppers</b>	<b>I dont think my doctor or hosp has it but I am in the Atlanta area... shouldnt be hard to find one</b>
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>but again, ask your doctor</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>I'd like to invite our da Vinci representatives, dominiquee and dVs Rep JC, to be able to leave.</b>
<b>dominiquee</b>	<b>he should know if you are a candidate</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>Although I'm certainly happy to have them stay with us!</b>
<b>Kathy</b>	<b>speppers, there is a davinci doctor locator at the davincihysterectomy.com website</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>However, if you have more questions for them, please ask now in case they do need to return to other obligations.</b>
<b>dVs Rep JC</b>	<b>speppers: Northside hospital would be the best choice!</b>
<b>tauruslady</b>	<b>I foud my surgeon with the doctor locator on their stie.</b>
<b>speppers</b>	<b>Great thanks</b>
<b>speppers</b>	<b>Northside is a very good hosp</b>
<b>dVs Rep JC</b>	<b>My daughter was born there!</b>
<b>rushingdl</b>	<b>i missed the chat event; is there a way to look at the transcript of it?</b>
<b>speppers</b>	<b>so was my neice... I had my son at Piedmont but I dont think they have the divinci yet</b>
<b>Kathy</b>	<b>yes, we will be posting the transcript</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>rushingdl, I'm glad you could make it</b>
<b>Kathy</b>	<b>you are welcome to stay and ask questions</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>the transcript should be posted sometime tomorrow</b>
<b>rushingdl</b>	<b>thanks, i will check back.</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>How many of you are having your surgeries for endometriosis?</b>
<b>dVs Rep JC</b>	<b>Northside has 5 of them :)</b>
<b>speppers</b>	<b>thats a good start!</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>JC, Northside has five da Vinci robot systems?</b>
<b>AZ camping nut</b>	<b>I am having the surgery for endo.</b>

Weiser	Hi AZ! Do you have any endo questions?
dominiquee	Yes, they do
rushingdl	i don't have endometriosis; i have adenomyosis. i'm looking into mirena iud or ablation as my first options.
fritzi64	My local hospital uses da Vinci and advertises it for prostate surgeries and heart surgeries primarily.
tauruslady	We have some hospitals here that have at least 4 so for some of the popular hospitals in populated areas I could see where that is possible.
Weiser	trying options first is an excellent idea rushinggd!
Kathy	Wow, 5 systems. That's impressive
rushingdl	no fun options!
Weiser	true, but they might work!
AZ camping nut	I'm totally sold on the daVinci procedure. This chat helped a lot! Thanks! I'm just struggling with whether or not to keep my ovaries.
Weiser	you don't know until you try!
fritzi64	rushingdl, some women prefer to go straight to the hysterectomy, but I was one who wanted to try at least one other thing first
fritzi64	Thanks for coming, AZ!
fritzi64	I'm glad this helped.
Weiser	you do not have to have your ovaries removed simply because you have endo
fritzi64	Share the information you learned here with your doctor to be sure that your decisions are the best options for you and your own medical situation.
rushingdl	yes, i'm trying to develop a curiosity for it all.
Weiser	seeing a doctor who is especially knowledgeable regarding endo could help you with your decision
speppers	thank you for your help... have a good evening!
Weiser	feel free to post your concerns on this issue in the Endo forum if your decision about your ovaries is because of endo
fritzi64	thanks for coming, speppers
AZ camping nut	Okay. I will.
Weiser	I will watch for you!
fritzi64	Hi Carz,
Carz	Hi I am new here
Carz	48 and going through the change
fritzi64	We're just wrapping up, but why don't you tell us about your hysterectomy plans?
Carz	It's horrible
fritzi64	And we'll see if we have some experience that can help you out
Carz	Right now I am not planning one but trying to avoid one.
Weiser	what is your diagnosis?
Weiser	We have an Options forum where you can learn about various options and alternatives
Carz	i have had an ovarian cysts that i was able to shrink by changing my diet but there is still a follicle ther. My cycles are irregular
Weiser	have you tried various hormonal methods?
Weiser	do you have PCOS?
Carz	I think so.
Weiser	are you seeing an endocrinologist?
Weiser	reproductive endocrinologist maybe?
Carz	Vivelle dot and natural progesterone. Yes i am seeing a good one
dominiquee	good buy, ladies! was a pleasure to be here today
Weiser	Thanks dominiquee!
dominiquee	good bye..

fritzi64	Thank you so much, dominiquee!
Carz	Bye!
Weiser	good Carz
Kathy	byebye domininiquee!
Kathy	Thank you for coming!
Carz	This is rough
Weiser	((Carz))
zenyatta5	good night. I am going to bed-very late here. Hope this helped
Weiser	thanks for helping out zenyatta5
Carz	I will try to be earlier next time
fritzi64	thank you so much, zenyatta
zenyatta5	you are welcome
fritzi64	We'll be closing the chatroom in about ten minutes.
Carz	O.K.
fritzi64	So feel free to ask other hysterectomy-related questions if you like.
Carz	Why do the ovaries fail so suddenly?
Weiser	I can answer pre op, post op, chronic issues, options, and endo questions if anyone has them!
Weiser	if you have PCOS, it might not be they failed so suddenly per se
Weiser	it could be a cummulation of issues from the PCOS
Carz	I am not ovulating and I don't know why
fritzi64	Tauruslady and I are hostesses in the Pre-op Forum, so we are certainly able to help out with some pre-op questions as well!
Carz	I am 48 so age..
Weiser	that could be part of the issue for sure
Carz	is a factor
tauruslady	yep if there are any questions from others on pre-op issues.
Weiser	working with an endocrinologist is great for this condition though!
Carz	Tjanks. I heard Maca root is great. Have not tried it yet
Weiser	I am not familiar with that
Carz	Has anyone tried it?
tauruslady	Maca is a south american herb.
tauruslady	It is isaid to be able to increase libido and do many other things.
Weiser	I tend to be allergic to natural products to my doctors have me avoid them!
Carz	It's a non-estrogenetic root that balances hormones
tauruslady	Since I wasn't sure I was going to be able to use HRT I looked at it but reports I saw
Weiser	and thus, I don't stay up on them eitehr
tauruslady	indicated that ifyou had cancer they hadn't done enough tests on it yet.
Carz	or endometriosis which i had
Weiser	have you had surgery for endo?
Weiser	because that could be part of your ovary issues
Weiser	you might have some endo involved!
Carz	Yes three in the past..good point
Carz	The surgery could have affected my ovarian function
Weiser	yes
fritzi64	WE'll be closing in five minutes.
Weiser	and adhesions from surgery and endo
Carz	I do have three children.
Weiser	and endo destroying the ovaries
Weiser	yay!
Carz	A miracle
Weiser	I have two miracles!
Weiser	my GYN said I shouldn't have been able to have either!

<b>Carz</b>	<b>Yay!</b>
<b>AZ camping nut</b>	<b>Weiser, will a hysterectomy make me feel as good as I feel when I am on Lupron?</b>
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>are you doing well with Lupron?</b>
<b>Carz</b>	<b>Only God knows</b>
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>hysterectomy is not a cure for endo</b>
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>however, a good surgeon who can excise can offer great relief</b>
<b>AZ camping nut</b>	<b>The second time I had great success, but not lasting results.</b>
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>have you had surgery for endo before?</b>
<b>AZ camping nut</b>	<b>no</b>
<b>Carz</b>	<b>I have been a-symptomatic since 1995</b>
<b>Kathy</b>	<b>you don't need a hysterectomy to have surgeon excise the endo</b>
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>how were you diagnosed AZ?</b>
<b>Carz</b>	<b>Endo is a tough one</b>
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>right Kathy--excision can be done without removing any organs!</b>
<b>AZ camping nut</b>	<b>Had all the symptoms and Lupron took them away. Had pain on the left side and they did a ultrasound to find my ovary stuck to my uterus with scar tissue.</b>
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>hmmm</b>
<b>Carz</b>	<b>I think my diet in the past caused the endo.</b>
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>then endo is a good guess but not necessarily 100% sure</b>
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>based on my personal experience and research, I would not have a hyst without a lap to diagnose endo</b>
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>esp since a hyst is not a cure</b>
<b>Carz</b>	<b>i shrunk the cyst by juicing beets and vegetables and staying away from meat.</b>
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>and a good surgeon can clean up endo without a hyst</b>
<b>Carz</b>	<b>The liver needs a detox</b>
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>seeing an endo specialist could be very helpful</b>
<b>Carz</b>	<b>I go to a reproductive endocrinologist</b>
<b>AZ camping nut</b>	<b>will that also take away the painful periods? I was leaning towards a hyst to get rid of that problem too.</b>
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>if the pain is from endo, removing the endo could remove the pain</b>
<b>Carz</b>	<b>Specializing in this stuff.</b>
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>if the pain is not from endo, you need to be looking for what is causing the pain</b>
<b>Carz</b>	<b>Diet is helpful.</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>I hate to be a party pooper, but it's time to close the room.</b>
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>thank you all for coming!</b>
<b>AZ camping nut</b>	<b>Thanks ladies!</b>
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>feel free to post your questions on the site</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>So if you get a message saying you've been kicked, that's all :)</b>
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>don't forget the Endo forum for those endo questions!</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>If you have more questions, please feel free to post them in the Endometriosis forum</b>
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>lol</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>or in the Pre-op forum</b>
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>my home away from home</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>and we'll all help you out there!</b>
<b>Carz</b>	<b>O.K</b>
<b>Weiser</b>	<b>Options for other choices</b>
<b>fritzi64</b>	<b>Okay, closing the chatroom</b>
<b>Carz</b>	<b>Nice to meet all of you</b>

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