

A Roundtable Discussion: Exploring Hysterectomy Options

April 15, 2010




Panelists: newlydiagnosed, Bobbeleh, kimmywoman, and SurgsoonTX


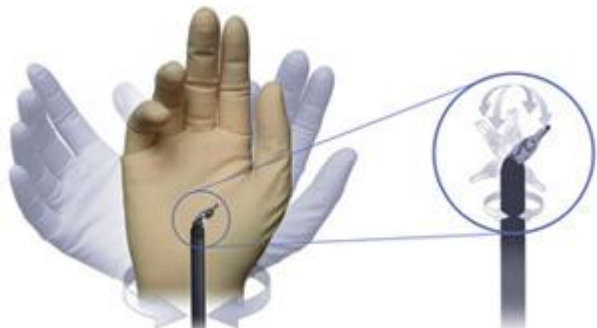

tauruslady	Hi everybody
fritzi64	Hi WalkingLady
kimmywoman	hello walkinglady
Bobbeleh	Hi WL
newlydiagnosed	hello walkinglady
tauruslady	Welcome to the chat
newlydiagnosed	hi redcrossnurse
newlydiagnosed	hi nataliedw
Bobbeleh	Hi everybody.
newlydiagnosed	yes, everyone :)
WalkingLady	Hi everyone!
kimmywoman	Hello scoob523
newlydiagnosed	hi scoob523
tauruslady	Hi scoob523
scoob523	hello
Bobbeleh	Hi
newlydiagnosed	welcome
kimmywoman	he micmouse
fritzi64	Hi micmouse
tauruslady	Hi micmouse
fritzi64	Hi scoob523
scoob523	Hi Fritzi
kimmywoman	I meant hi :-)
newlydiagnosed	lol
micmouse	Hello all :)
scoob523	First time in a chat room
Bobbeleh	<waves>
tauruslady	we're glad you are here
Bobbeleh	You'll have all kinds of fun
fritzi64	This is the first chatroom I was ever in, too, I think
kimmywoman	Oh, you'll like it..goes fast sometimes, though..
redcrossnurse	im having a total hyst with divinci surgery on may 7
redcrossnurse	any suggestions
micmouse	me too
Bobbeleh	Lots.
fritzi64	We'll be getting started in a few minutes with our program
Bobbeleh	Relax... it's a good choice.
redcrossnurse	good thanks
fritzi64	and you'll so have lots of chances to ask questions of our experienced patients and our representative from da Vinci
Bobbeleh	I'm 7 months post now.
newlydiagnosed	you're in the rght place!
scoob523	I have been looking forward to this chat room all day. so many feelings and thank you for having it
kimmywoman	Good to have you here
redcrossnurse	awesome, im more afraid of sudden menopause
newlydiagnosed	best place to be.
Bobbeleh	It's a major decision
fritzi64	Oh, I'm so glad to know you were looking forward to it.

fritzi64	Hi Nellie198
Bobbeleh	Hi Nellie
tauruslady	Hi Nellie198
kimmywoman	hi nellie
newlydiagnosed	ni hellie198
newlydiagnosed	ooo
newlydiagnosed	that was supposed
newlydiagnosed	to be
newlydiagnosed	HI
newlydiagnosed	:)
Bobbeleh	ROFL
nataliedw	I am scheduled for davinci May 7.:) Thank you for having this chat tonight!!!
Nellie198	hi
redcrossnurse	me too natalie same day
kimmywoman	You'll get lots of great info
micmouse	mine is the 7th also
Bobbeleh	Be sure to connect with your week's post op group
tauruslady	Glad you are here
newlydiagnosed	wow
redcrossnurse	mine is in brighton ma
newlydiagnosed	may 7th seems to be the day!
tauruslady	you will find lots of good information
fritzi64	Let's go ahead and get started.
Bobbeleh	okee-dokee
newlydiagnosed	k
kimmywoman	sounds good
fritzi64	We'll have some folks who are fashionably late, and that's okay :)
fritzi64	Welcome to our Roundtable tonight!
scoob523	Thank you
fritzi64	We are so glad you are here.
fritzi64	With this roundtable, we hope to provide information for hysterectomy options.
fritzi64	Often, we are limited in our medical choices by lack of information and what may be an option.
fritzi64	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.
fritzi64	Tonight's Roundtable discussion centers around the topic of daVinci Hysterectomy as a hysterectomy option.
fritzi64	You are going to hear from several members of HysterSisters who faced a hysterectomy for various reasons, including cancer, fibroids, adenomyosis, and endometriosis.
fritzi64	You'll learn about their experiences with the da Vinci hysterectomy.
fritzi64	We also have a da Vinci representative in the discussion with us tonight.
fritzi64	And da Vinci is our sponsor tonight.
fritzi64	If you have questions for our daVinci representative, please remember that this is only for general information and you will not be given personal answers that could be considered medical advice
fritzi64	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
fritzi64	Because daVinci is still relatively new and is something our doctors may not have experience with, we wanted to provide you with a bit more insight.
fritzi64	Here's how tonight's Roundtable will work:

fritzi64	Tauruslady, one of our HysterSisters hostesses, will be interviewing our roundtable panelists who have had the daVinci hysterectomy procedure and will share their experiences.
fritzi64	I may also be asking a few questions as we proceed.
fritzi64	Our panelists are newlydiagnosed, SurgsoonTX, bobbeleh, and kimmywoman.
fritzi64	We also have Debbie, a representative from daVinci surgery, who will be able to share some important statistics and other information about the surgery.
fritzi64	And I will be stepping in on occasion to ask the audience a few questions.
fritzi64	When I ask a question of (((HysterSisters))), that is a question for the members of our audience.
fritzi64	This Roundtable will be moderated.
fritzi64	That means that once I turn the moderation on, every comment you type will be held in a queue and will appear in the chat window when it fits in.
fritzi64	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!
fritzi64	You may notice some symbols appearing on your screen at times: **
fritzi64	This is just our way of letting each other know when we're done with our response and it's time to move on to the next question!
fritzi64	Let's get started. Tauruslady, it's all yours!
tauruslady	First, let's meet our panelists for this evening. Newlydiagnosed, surgsoonTX, bobbeleh and kimmywoman can you tell us a little about yourselves?
Bobbeleh	I'm single, 56 years old and live in the S.F. Bay Area with my 11-1/2 year old dog, Sara. I'm passionate about dogs and cooking. I've telecommuting for nearly 16 years as a medical transcriptionist.
kimmywoman	Hello from Washington. I'm 59, married and 6 weeks post op as of today, yeah!!
newlydiagnosed	Good evening lades! I am 43 years old, live in MD with my hubby of 25 years, 3 children, one grandchild, and one dog! :)
SurgsoonTX	I'm a married 41 y/o active mom of a 10 year old girl, married and live in Texas.
tauruslady	Debbie, can you tell us about yourself and your relationship with daVinci?
debbiedavinci	Sure. Hello everyone! 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 you!
scoob523	they say recovery and back to work is short term. but what is considered short term
fritzi64	We'll be answering your questions later on, but we just want to have a sense of what to prepare for :)
WalkingLady	Risks and other statistics for this type of surgery
spearllavey	If you have a fibroid problem, do they have to shrink the fibroids before they perform the Hysterectomy?
nataliedw	I am concerned about sexual dysfunction after the surgery, and stories or data to share about this?
fritzi64	Any other burning questions you're hoping to have answered this evening?
fritzi64	Thank you for sharing those questions. I think you'll find that we

	cover most of that during the program.
fritzi64	**
nataliedw	I have also heard that the uterus is removed through the holes made in your abdomen, is this true?
in2itive	I like to know more about MRgFUS
scoob523	if a person feels fine, why have the surgery. even if the doctor says its necessary
ksetter	I had my ovaries and tubes removed 2 years ago. Starting bleeding last October. Just had a d&c last Friday. I'm still bleeding but not as bad as I was prior to the d&c. What would be my next step if this bleeding continues?
tauruslady	newlydiagnosed, what brought you to the hysterectomy experience?
newlydiagnosed	After going for my routine annual exam, my test results came back with numerous cancer cells.
newlydiagnosed	This was quite a surprise since I've always had good exams.
newlydiagnosed	Never questionable.
newlydiagnosed	Negative HPV Virus.
newlydiagnosed	Very surprsing.
newlydiagnosed	Many tests later
newlydiagnosed	found out I had cervical cancer
newlydiagnosed	stage 1B1.
newlydiagnosed	**
tauruslady	SurgsoonTX, why did you have your hysterectomy?
SurgsoonTX	I was having gastrointestinal issues that were horrific every month. My Nurse Practitioner clued in that it was cyclical and after a colonoscopy I was found to have a stricture in my sigmoid colon thought to be due to endometriosis.
SurgsoonTX	This was a three year process though and at one point I was told I needed a full abdominal hysterectomy. That seemed very dramatic to me so I chose to keep living with the pain for the moment.
SurgsoonTX	I finally got to a point where the pain was affecting my life for 2 weeks out of every month. I was eventually referred to an endo specialist and he pointed the way to a surgeon who was trained in the DV procedure.
SurgsoonTX	***
tauruslady	bobbeleh, what brought you to the experience?
Bobbeleh	I'd been post-menopausal for 2-3 three years. My menopause was unbelievably easy, so much so that I nearly missed it altogether. Ironically, on Mother's Day, 2009, I began bleeding moderately-heavy and did so for just about 3 weeks without stopping. Although my biopsy results were negative (I had a hysteroscopy/ diagnostic D&C, which is a day surgery procedure), I'm really more fearful of "female" cancers, most of which are silent, than I am of potential "menopause symptoms", which I haven't had many
fritzi64	And kimmywoman, what about you? What was the reason for your hysterectomy?
Bobbeleh	I told my gyn I wanted a laparoscopic procedure if at all possible, and she, it turned out, was a daVinci surgeon, so she gave me the brochure. Once we got insurance company approval, we were good to go!
fritzi64	(sorry)
Bobbeleh	So for me, it was almost luck of the draw. ***
kimmywoman	I was in for my annual physical and the doc found enlarged fibroids and a suspicious ovary. Since I was post menopausal, he was concerned and sent me for an ultrasound. Those results sent me to a specialist for evaluation. I researched my options (actually found this site and saw the da Vinci information), and then contacted a doc

	in my area that performed those surgeries.***
tauruslady	And kimmywoman, what about you?
tauruslady	Debbie, could you explain how the da Vinci Surgical System works?
debbiedavinci	<p>Sure. The da Vinci System has three main partsâ€”a surgeon console, patient side cart and vision system.</p> 
debbiedavinci	<p>The surgeon console, where the surgeon sits during surgery, allows him/her to see inside the patient's body with a camera.</p> 
debbiedavinci	<p>That camera provides 3D HD vision with 10x magnification vision and allows the surgeon to â€œintuitivelyâ€ manipulate the surgical instruments with extreme precision. The instruments are under the surgeon's complete control at all times.</p> 

	 <p>Intuitive® Motion</p>
debbiedavinci	
debbiedavinci	<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> 
debbiedavinci	<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>
tauruslady	<p>What does it mean that there is a “robot” involved?</p>
debbiedavinci	<p>good question.</p>
debbiedavinci	<p>As seen in the picture above, the surgeon is seated at the console just a few feet from the patient. The surgeon is in complete control during the entire procedure. In fact, it is impossible for the “robot” to act on its own under any circumstances. In the rare case of a patient emergency, such as an allergic reaction, the surgeon can readily be at the patient’s side.</p>
debbiedavinci	<p>Also, there is what’s called a “patient side assistant” a doctor or member of the surgical team “standing next to the patient during surgery.**</p>
tauruslady	<p>Debbie, what are some of the general benefits of daVinci surgery as opposed to other hysterectomy options?</p>
debbiedavinci	<p>Surgery provides the surgeon with numerous features which complement or enhance their surgical ability, all of which lead to faster recovery with less pain for the patient.</p>
debbiedavinci	<p>By using miniature instruments to perform the surgery, the surgeon can work through extremely small incisions in the abdomen.</p>

debbiedavinci	Those instruments are even more flexible than the human wrist â€” 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.
debbiedavinci	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.)
debbiedavinci	The additional range of motion, 3D vision and 10x magnification provide substantially more precision and control than laparoscopy, again contributing to superior patient outcomes.**
tauruslady	We’d like to ask our panelists why they chose to have the da Vinci procedure. Kimmywoman, why did you choose the da Vinci?
kimmywoman	After researching the procedure, I was sold on just the things Debbie was saying
kimmywoman	Less pain
kimmywoman	Faster recovery
kimmywoman	It was everything I was looking for**
tauruslady	Bobbeleh, what about you?
Bobbeleh	I chose daVinci because that's what my gyn does, basically. The brochure and my visits to the website convinced me further that this really was the ultimate in "lap" procedures. Since that's what my doctor offered, that's what I chose. I knew I really didn't want a traditional procedure
Bobbeleh	***
tauruslady	Newlydiagnosed?
newlydiagnosed	Actually, my gyn-oncologist is based in a large teaching hospital.
newlydiagnosed	So he chose the procedure for me.
newlydiagnosed	I wasn't given an option.
newlydiagnosed	But, after going home and doing all of the research,
newlydiagnosed	less pain
tauruslady	And SurgsoonTX?
newlydiagnosed	faster recovery, etc.
SurgsoonTX	I have a few other health issues and I knew that the smaller the incision the fewer the complications usually. Less infection risk, less risk of blood clots, less pain, less risk of wound dehiscence. Also, my gyn and the surgeon knew there would be a lot of fine manipulation required in order to preserve as much of my colon as possible while also removing as much endometriosis as possible.
newlydiagnosed	I decided it was the best procedure for me.
newlydiagnosed	XX
SurgsoonTX	***
tauruslady	How important was it to you to seek a second opinion in making your decision about hysterectomy type?
kimmywoman	I didn't seek a second opinion.. I knew I was a good candidate for this surgery
newlydiagnosed	It was very important to me to the type of treatment ~ a hysterectomy period. I'm really grateful that this was an option.
newlydiagnosed	**
Bobbeleh	Had my test results been positive, I might have looked further into what my options would be, but as I said before, given that this was the ultimate in elective surgery, I didn't really feel any necessity for a second opinion. What I did do, was talk to friends who had undergone a hysterectomy, particularly one woman who had undergone a laparoscopic procedure for endometrial cancer a few years before and I wanted her input on the experience.
Bobbeleh	My biggest concern regarding the da Vinci procedure was that it

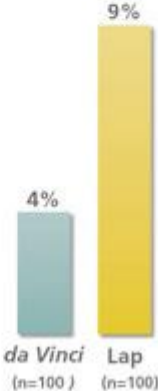
	would be considered "experimental" and not covered by my insurance company.
Bobbeleh	**
SurgsoonTX	The consult for the DV procedure was my second opinion after hearing a few years prior that I would need a standard abdominal hysterectomy. **
fritzi64	((HysterSisters))), how many of you have sought a second opinion, either about having a hysterectomy at all or about the type of procedure to have?
scoob523	I have not sought a second opinion
loeb42	My doctor has done 100 of these Da Vinci surgeries, so that did it for me!! =)
dedmurphy	The DV is my 3rd opinion.
chelle05	I've actually been with the same gyn for many, many years and trust his opinion fully. He has done many of the Da Vinci surgeries.
WalkingLady	My former gyn only offered a traditional hysterectomy to "remove it all" - even my healthy ovaries. I found this website and went for a second opinion with a daVinci surgeon.
fritzi64	We know from a voluntary poll on HysterSisters that fewer than half our members have gotten a second opinion.
fritzi64	We, at HysterSisters, think this means our members aren't necessarily getting all options explored
fritzi64	One of our goals at HysterSisters.com is to encourage our members to be the best self-advocates they can be.
fritzi64	You deserve and owe it to yourself to explore all your treatment options
fritzi64	As women, we often have great loyalty to our doctors.
fritzi64	But we deserve to explore other options. It is not a backhand to our doctors.
fritzi64	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.
fritzi64	There is no need to feel disloyal for asking other surgeons for input.
ksetter	My gyn wanted to do an olation on me when he removed my ovaries & tubes and I was concerned that if i did the olation a good read for cancer cells would be hampered and my sister had ovarian and uterine cancer
dedmurphy	That is why I went to a 3rd Dr.
tauruslady	Debbie, each of these panelists made a decision, along with her doctor, about what was best for her own medical situation. We'd like to ask about the da Vinci hysterectomy in regards to the specific medical conditions they faced. What are the benefits specific to women having a hysterectomy for gynecological cancer?
scoob523	that's why I am here. It's a very confusing issue. and I feel what can be better than talking to people who has had it or know about it
ksetter	so I went for a second opinion on the olation
debbiedavinci	The 3 D vision, 10 x magnification and wristed instruments provide an equal or even better outcome than open surgery while providing all benefits of minimal invasive surgery.
debbiedavinci	Besides a significantly less pain, less blood loss and need for transfusion, less risk of infection, shorter hospital stay and small incisions for minimal scarring, it is a benefit for women in a cancer treatment to have a quicker recovery and therefore less time between surgery and possible follow-on treatments.
debbiedavinci	As with any surgery, these benefits cannot be guaranteed, as surgery is patient- and procedure-specific.**
tauruslady	What are the benefits specific to women having a hysterectomy for fibroids? Debbie, how does fibroid size affect whether a woman is a

	candidate for a da Vinci Hysterectomy?
debbiedavinci	The daVinci System enables the surgeon to operate through 3 - 5 small incisions even on large uteri with multiple fibroids with all the benefits a minimal invasive surgery offers. **
debbiedavinci	<p>The image shows a comparison of two surgical approaches. On the left, 'Open (abdominal) surgery' is illustrated with a female torso showing a large vertical incision on the abdomen. On the right, 'da Vinci Hysterectomy (robot-assisted surgery)' is illustrated with a female torso showing three small, circular incisions on the abdomen. Above the diagrams is a blue banner with the text 'Surgical Approaches to Gynecologic Conditions'.</p>
debbiedavinci	The fibroid size often influences the size of the uterus.
debbiedavinci	Studies have shown that daVinci Hysterectomies are less likely to be converted to an open surgery because of the uterus size than laparoscopic Hysterectomies.
debbiedavinci	It's interesting to note that when these surgeons converted during a da Vinci procedure it was because the uterus was much larger than in the laparoscopic comparative arm of the study.**
tauruslady	What are the benefits specific to women having a hysterectomy for heavy bleeding?
debbiedavinci	same benefits as for any other Hysterectomy with the daVinci apply! daVinci Surgery provides the surgeon with numerous features which complement or enhance their surgical ability, all of which lead to faster recovery with less pain for the patient.
debbiedavinci	By using miniature instruments to perform the surgery, the surgeon can work through extremely small incisions in the abdomen. 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.
debbiedavinci	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.**
tauruslady	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?
debbiedavinci	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 in excising as much endometriosis tissue as possible while performing the Hysterectomy

tauruslady	Debbie, with all these benefits, why are the other types of procedures still being done?
debbiedavinci	Just to finish answering your question about laser and scalpel.... 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.**
debbiedavinci	Now for your question about other procedures -- 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.
debbiedavinci	While virtually all OB/GYNs perform hysterectomies, many are not trained in minimally invasive techniques because they don't do enough surgeries to make it worth their time.
debbiedavinci	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.**
tauruslady	newlydiagnosed, bobbeleh, and kimmywoman, what were your concerns about the da Vinci hysterectomy?
tauruslady	and surgsoonTX did you have concerns?
Bobbeleh	My biggest concern was that my insurance wouldn't cover it.
Bobbeleh	***
newlydiagnosed	My main concern was the length of time the surgery took. My doc said 5 hours, but it took 7-8 hours.
kimmywoman	Just it being robotic was a little worriesome, but after talking to others who had a da Vinci, felt comfortable with it**
Bobbeleh	Mine probably took that long, too.
newlydiagnosed	**
SurgsoonTX	I was concerned my Dr. would have to be more invasive with the surgery or that he would have to convert to an open adominal incision.
Bobbeleh	Almost got converted to a "mini"
Bobbeleh	*** \
tauruslady	Debbie, are there any situations where a dVH is not the best option for someone?
kimmywoman	A friend had prostate surgery with the da Vinci
SurgsoonTX	***
newlydiagnosed	I didn't have any insurance problems.
newlydiagnosed	**
kimmywoman	No insurance problems for me, either
debbiedavinci	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.**
Bobbeleh	Neither did I after the fact. ***
tauruslady	Panelists, we'd like to ask about your surgery and recovery. Do did everything go?
SurgsoonTX	No insurance problems either here. **
tauruslady	newlydiagnosed, tell us about your surgery and recovery.
newlydiagnosed	well, the surgery took about 7-8 hours
kimmywoman	Surgery took less than one hour. Had complete hysterectomy and removal of ovaries and tubes. Stayed overnight and home the next morning
newlydiagnosed	because of the type and staging of the cancer, they had to do a

	radical hysterectomy
kimmywoman	sorry
newlydiagnosed	with ovaries and lymph nodes.
newlydiagnosed	the surgery itself went fine.
newlydiagnosed	I was recovering fine for the first week,
SurgsoonTX	My surgery was @ 8 a.m. Surgery took about 2 hours because a fibroid was found that was a lot larger than seen on ultrasound. I was in my room by noon and was up and walking with the catheter out by 6 or 7 pm. I had a moderate amount of pain that was controlled by IV meds during the night.
newlydiagnosed	then overdid it and had a set back.
newlydiagnosed	I believe that if I hadn't over did it, as my doc says,
newlydiagnosed	i would have recovered in 2-3 weeks.
newlydiagnosed	but because of the set back
newlydiagnosed	it took 4-5 weeks.
newlydiagnosed	***
tauruslady	SurgsoonTX, how did your surgery go, and how are you doing?
Bobbeleh	My surgery also went long...
Bobbeleh	Apparently, according to my surgeon, I have a long vagina and they were getting tired reaching up there.
SurgsoonTX	I was discharged by 11 a.m. the next morning. I am in the healthcare field and had been warned by friends not to over do it and to take pain meds as prescribed in order to be able to walk around, cough and deep breathe.
Bobbeleh	However, I do anesthesia well, so they considered converting, but didn't
Bobbeleh	It turns out, tho, that I'm allergic to demerol and they found out as I was coming out of anesthesia.
Bobbeleh	I spent 2 nights in the hosp as a result.
Bobbeleh	The most pain I experienced was in my intestines (they hate being goofed with)
Bobbeleh	And my vagina
Bobbeleh	Felt kind of beat up in there.
Bobbeleh	I went to my mom's for 1 night, then home.
tauruslady	Any other recovery comments? Kimmywoman, SurgsoonTX?
SurgsoonTX	The hardest thing for me about the DVH surgery is that you will FEEL like you can return to normal activities rather quickly...within about 1.5 weeks. But just because you feel externally fine (i.e. no incisional pain), doesn't mean you should be completely returning to normal.
Bobbeleh	Once I was home, I was pretty much feeling better.
Bobbeleh	Energy level is the worst of it.
Bobbeleh	You do think you can do it all... but you can't really.
kimmywoman	Surgery took less than one hour, stayed overnight and was home by 9 a.m. the next day. No pain meds after a few days and driving at 10 days, exercising lightly after 2 weeks
Bobbeleh	I found that taking 4 weeks off was a good idea
SurgsoonTX	I went into protection mode, gradually reintroduced activities, strictly adhered to instructions not to lift > 5 lbs and not to have sex until cleared and all went well for me fortunately.
Bobbeleh	My gyn wouldn't release me back to the gym for 4 weeks.
Bobbeleh	***
kimmywoman	I was allergic to initial pain meds and antibiotics so took a few days to get back on track.
Bobbeleh	I discovered the joys of Toradol.
SurgsoonTX	I completely agree with Bobbeleh....the fatigue is something I did not count on! I am otherwise fit and healthy and I was surprised at

	how tired I was for those first few weeks.
newlydiagnosed	I too had an allergic reaction, but I was out of the hospital by 6pm the following day.
kimmywoman	The first 2 weeks I really took it easy...
Bobbeleh	I had to remind myself periodically that in spite of tiny incisions, it's still major abdominal surgery.
newlydiagnosed	I wasn't released for 6 weeks due to set back.
newlydiagnosed	REST and ICE were my best friends.
Bobbeleh	I ran out of sick and vacation time after 4 weeks. But I work from home.
Bobbeleh	The upper left incision will probably be the one that's the most sore.
SurgsoonTX	Yes...what Bobbeleh said! The GI issues were the roughest part but my surgeon did do a lot of work excising the endo from my colon so I expected that.
kimmywoman	Then gradually after 2 weeks was able to slowly get back into some activity
tauruslady	Thanks for all that information for our members.
Bobbeleh	Having an idea of what to expect really helps.
newlydiagnosed	I found that if you take it easy (as prescribed), rest (as prescribed) and take your meds (as prescribed) you could really do it in 2-3 weeks.
kimmywoman	Actually my right side is the most sore. He put a suture in to prevent future hernia
Bobbeleh	But you're still healing internally.
tauruslady	Debbie, we've had several women ask about conversions. I understand that means starting out with a planned daVinci surgeryâ€”but then the surgeon has to change to abdominal surgery.
debbiedavinci	There are several reasons why an operation starts as a planned minimal invasive surgery and gets converted during the case.
tauruslady	Could you provide any statistics on how often that happens?
debbiedavinci	Most commonly because the presence of adhesions which mostly appears in patients that had previous surgeries or the body size of an patient (BMI).
debbiedavinci	It is proven that da Vinci surgeries are less likely to be converted to open surgeries because of these reasons than common laparoscopic surgeries.
debbiedavinci	Here is clinical data that illustrates the experience of a lap surgeon who found a much lower percentage of conversions using da Vinci Surgery relative to traditional laparoscopy.**
tauruslady	How does this compare to how often a traditional laparoscopic surgery is converted to an abdominal surgery

debbiedavinci	<div style="text-align: center;"> <h2 style="background-color: #4a7ebb; color: white; padding: 5px; border-radius: 10px 10px 0 0;">Conversions</h2> <p>Hysterectomy Benign Conversion Rate</p>  <table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Procedure</th> <th>Conversion Rate</th> <th>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> </div>	Procedure	Conversion Rate	n	da Vinci	4%	100	Lap	9%	100
Procedure	Conversion Rate	n								
da Vinci	4%	100								
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fritzi64	(((HysterSisters))), what questions do you have about who is and is not a candidate for a daVinci hysterectomy?									
SurgsoonTX	I had MAJOR adhesions along with my endo from a previous lap and a c-section.									
Maryland68	I've read that the Da Vinci procedure works well for women that are over weight, is this true?									
Bobbeleh	I'm considered obese. I was 225 (at 5'6") when I had my surgery. Since lost more weight and am now 215.									
SurgsoonTX	And my surgeon did not have to convert.									
dedmurphy	Is there a certain suze uterus where the Dr. will convert from DV to open?									
tauruslady	Debbie, what are the best questions to ask a doctor about recovery care specific to the robotic surgery?									
debbiedavinci	Check the new "Checkpoints" section on HysterSisters. I like it and it covers all the bases.**									
debbiedavinci	The questions differ but one we hear very often is: Am I a candidate? You can check the daVinci homepage for a first glance and should talk to your daVinci surgeon about all your questions. www.daVincisurgery.com									
tauruslady	What are the most common concerns and questions that women have about the da Vinci Hysterectomy?									
tauruslady	Debbie, we've had quite a few members who have asked about being overweight and having a hysterectomy.									
tauruslady	Is this an issue with a daVinci procedure?									
debbiedavinci	In fact, a new study by Dr. John Boggess at the University of North Carolina shows excellent outcome even in patients classified as "morbidly obese" (those with a body mass index or BMI greater than 40).									
debbiedavinci	Every woman was able to leave the hospital the next day and not a single surgery had to be converted to an open hysterectomy.** :benign:									
tauruslady	Debbie, also we're asked about adhesions and whether laparoscopic procedures cause fewer adhesions									
debbiedavinci	Every woman responds differently to surgical approaches, sometimes, adhesions are found even in women that never had surgery before.									

tauruslady	Panelists, what advice do you have for other women considering a da Vinci hysterectomy?
Bobbeleh	Do as much research as you can!
newlydiagnosed	Agree. Research and make sure it is the right fit for you.
Bobbeleh	This is a one-time procedure, so it's the only comparison you're gonna get. ;-)
kimmywoman	I did a google search for "da Vinci and then my city" and came up with 3 names. Then researched the docs
newlydiagnosed	If your doc doesn't do it, find one who does.
dedmurphy	That's great!
SurgsoonTX	Ask questions, plan ahead to have help, make sure your spouse or partner *really* understands the extent of the internal surgery and then plan your recovery with the thought in mind that you only get one chance at recovery!
Bobbeleh	I'd never heard of it before.
tauruslady	Debbie, let's say that someone who's here tonight wants to learn more about whether dVH is a good option for her. What should she do? What information and resources do you have on your website?
debbiedavinci	On line you can visit www.daVinciHysterectomy.com or www.daVinciStories.com ; 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.**
fritzi64	Tauruslady, since you're a hostess here and you also had a da Vinci hysterectomy yourself, could you please tell us what information and resources we have on the HysterSisters website that are most helpful to women preparing for a da Vinci hysterectomy or making a decision about what hysterectomy type is best for them?
tauruslady	There are numerous things that can help you understand all your options or start you in the right direction.
debbiedavinci	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.**
tauruslady	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.
tauruslady	Review the Pre-Op Checkpoints that give you definitions and information on all varieties of hysterectomies and preparation for them.
kimmywoman	I also went on YouTube and watched a surgery.. Pretty cool
Bobbeleh	The forums are fantastic!
tauruslady	Of course there are links to the daVinci site from HysterSisters.
tauruslady	For the brave of heart you can watch videos of various surgeries.
Bobbeleh	Oh! And wear scrub pants after your procedure. You'll be soooo glad you did.
fritzi64	((((HysterSisters))), what questions do you have?
fritzi64	I'll let some of your earlier questions through in a moment.
SurgsoonTX	But try not to be freaked out by any of the horror stories! They are few and far between. The ones of us who do really well tend to move on more quickly.
fritzi64	Remember, if you have questions for our da Vinci representative, please remember that this is only for general information and you will not be given personal answers that could be considered medical advice
Bobbeleh	That's very true, Surg.
fritzi64	And our panelists will be sharing their experiences, which may not

	match what happens for you.
ksetter	What parts can be removed using the DV?
Bobbeleh	All of them.
newlydiagnosed	I had everything, uterus, cervix, ovaries, and lymph nodes.
kimmywoman	The HysterSister site has been an amazing resource and support group
SurgsoonTX	Cervix, uterus and an ovary here.
SurgsoonTX	Ooops...ovary with one V!
Bobbeleh	No lymph nodes for me, but everything else.
kimmywoman	Removed everything, kept cervix
scoob523	has anyone ever have a cist burst while waiting for surgery
Bobbeleh	With cervix removal, it's almost always through the vagina.
Bobbeleh	Nope.
lkay	How is an oversized uterus with multiple large fibroids removed through tiny incisions?
kimmywoman	Uterus was taken out through vagina
Bobbeleh	In strips.
newlydiagnosed	none burst
Bobbeleh	That's why it takes so long.
newlydiagnosed	i believe mine was both through the incisions and vagina.
SurgsoonTX	I believe they cut it up with the DV and then it is suctioned out via the vaginal incision.
lkay	did most of you have a genreal anesthesia?
Bobbeleh	A traditional is more of a cut and grab.
Bobbeleh	Mine was all vaginal.
newlydiagnosed	yes
newlydiagnosed	generela anesthesia
kimmywoman	Yes, general anesthesia
Bobbeleh	I don't think there's another option
scoob523	how much bleeding do you have after the surgery
SurgsoonTX	I had general anesthesia.
newlydiagnosed	no bleeding
Bobbeleh	Virtually none.
kimmywoman	Spotted for a few hours is all
tauruslady	If you have cancer the uterus is removed intact through the vagina, they don't want the cancer to spread.
micmouse	How long does this surgery last and can things go wrong during the surgery with the robot?
loeb42	Can something go wrong with the "robot?"
SurgsoonTX	No bleeding from incisions, a small to moderate amount of pink discharge for about 2 weeks afterwards.
Bobbeleh	I didn't have cancer -- mine was "pre-emptive."
newlydiagnosed	mine lasted 7-8 hours
Bobbeleh	Mine at least 6 hours.
tauruslady	For a partial hysterectomy where the cervix will stay intact is can be cut-up and removed via the incision.
kimmywoman	Mine was less than an hour in lenght
newlydiagnosed	i did have cancer and mine was removed in tact
SurgsoonTX	Mine surgery lasted about 2-3 hours I believe.
Bobbeleh	Wow.
nataliedw	Is the uterus removed through the vagina or through the incisions?
tauruslady	Micmouse - things can go wrong in any surgery that is a side of any surgery.
newlydiagnosed	vagina
kimmywoman	They use dilators to oopen cervix to remove uterus
SurgsoonTX	Natallie...my surgical report said the uterus was removed through the vagina.

newlydiagnosed	mine was anyway
Bobbeleh	Mine was removed in strips through a small incision in the upper vagina.
tauruslady	Depends on if the cervix is being removed. If it is than it will be vaginally, if not through the incisions
kimmywoman	I had never had children, so was worried, but it came out without problems
ksetter	what about endo on other organs?
Bobbeleh	That makes sense Tauruslady.
newlydiagnosed	i actually had the top part of my vagina removed also.
Bobbeleh	I think I had adhesions with the uterus stuck to my bladder.
Bobbeleh	They dealt with that.
Bobbeleh	My urgency incontinence AND my back pain both went away after the surgery.
SurgsoonTX	I had endo on my colon and he said he removed almost all of it.
fritzi64	ksetter, because the da Vinci system allows doctors to see behind organs, it can be more effective in locating endo
nataliedw	Should we take the tummy support panel recommended on this site to the hospital with us if we're having davinci hysterectomy? Will it hurt the incisions?
lkay	7-8 hours sounds like a really long surgery!
newlydiagnosed	the hospial gave me mine
newlydiagnosed	it really hepled
SurgsoonTX	However, my left ovary was adhered to my colon and he had to remove it.
Bobbeleh	My doc wouldn't allow any abdominal binders.
newlydiagnosed	it was long.
Bobbeleh	Didn't need them after my intestines settled down.
newlydiagnosed	but needed.
SurgsoonTX	I did not need the tummy support panel. I highly recommend a body pillow to support your abdomen when you sleep.
newlydiagnosed	the nurse put one on me right after surgery.
Bobbeleh	Oh yes... and stool softeners.
ksetter	where are the incisions & what parts can be manipulated using this procedure?
Bobbeleh	They become your bff.
kimmywoman	I did not use a binder
newlydiagnosed	i found it most useful when walking
scoob523	My surgery is on a weds and I was planning on going back to work at a sit down down job half a day, on the following Monday, does that seem unrealistic
kimmywoman	I only have 4 incisions. 2 on right one on left and one below navel
SurgsoonTX	My incisions are above my belly button and look like this : - - - -
Bobbeleh	upper left, navel, below navel, lower right, and I can't remember where the 5th one is.
Bobbeleh	Can't find most of them...
Bobbeleh	My biggest incision is 1/2 inch
loeb42	Why so many incisions?
Bobbeleh	The rest are about a third of that.
newlydiagnosed	five incisions. one above belly button, two on one side, one on the other and one lower
kimmywoman	Yes, unrealistic...need two weeks off of work
newlydiagnosed	at least two.
Bobbeleh	INdeed.
SurgsoonTX	I will have to be honest and say that all of mine are still visible.
newlydiagnosed	mine are still visible
SurgsoonTX	Scoob...that is very unrealistic.

lkay	does davinci surgery take a lot longer than abdominal? are there any negative ramifications to that?
kimmywoman	I can still see mine, but they are very small
Bobbeleh	Only if you have problems tolerating anesthesia.
kimmywoman	I would think it takes a shorter amount of time than abdominal surgery
tauruslady	loeb42 - the surgical system has 3 ports for instruments, 1 for camera and than one incision that has a hand-held instrument by a surgical assistant
newlydiagnosed	my doc said yes it takes longer because they want to make sure they manipulate the robot correctly.
debbiedavinci	to address the time issue, 6-7 hours for a da vinci surgery is not the norm
SurgsoonTX	Mine was only 2-3 hours.
tauruslady	Time can vary based on experience of surgeon and work being done.
Bobbeleh	The literature and research I did said 4-5 hours
newlydiagnosed	maybe my doc was practicing! :)
Bobbeleh	ROFL
tauruslady	I had everything removed due to cancer and it was about a 4 hour procedure.
loeb42	How long is one on bedrest?
debbiedavinci	A lot of our surgeons take much less than that
Bobbeleh	A day or two
SurgsoonTX	Scoob....you will "feel" like you can be up and around a bit but PLEASE do not forget the internal healing that is taking place!! Plus you will fatigue easily and your mind will still be a bit fuzzy from the anesthesia.
Bobbeleh	I was cleared to drive the next day
Bobbeleh	Just didn't want to.
tauruslady	A less experienced physician may take longer back but should shorten to regular time with experience
newlydiagnosed	i came home with a cathedar also for five days.
SurgsoonTX	I did not get cleared to drive for 6 days.
kimmywoman	My doctor said it would take less than an hour, and he was right. Gave my husband a picture of the uterus and tumor they found
Bobbeleh	Ouch.
tauruslady	There is no "bedrest" if you are saying completely confined to bed.
newlydiagnosed	i couldn't drive for weeks.
kimmywoman	No catheter .. they took it out after surgery and before the recovery room
tauruslady	You should be up and walking in the hospital and walking a bit afterward but you need lots and lots of rest
newlydiagnosed	i guess i'm just a slow healer :)
Bobbeleh	I drove for the first time at 4 days.
debbiedavinci	the time it takes to do a da vinci surgery depends on the skills & experience of your surgeon and your body
scoob523	I am thinking to just let everything stay where they are. I dont feel bad at all. alittle pain and heavy bleeding, one cist but it dont bother me. some fiberoids on the uterus but I didnt realize the surgery was this long, that is a big time difference. one person was 2-4 and one was 7-8. and two weeks off.
Bobbeleh	My dr darn near freaked when I mentioned that I drive a stick shift.
debbiedavinci	this is similar to any other surgery
loeb42	Yes, completely confined
nataliedw	I understand that the table on which the patient lays is titled and this causes a slight headache when we wake up. Is this common?
SurgsoonTX	Rest is a good thing, but total bedrest after abdominal surgery is

	usually not recommended.
Bobbeleh	If you don't have cancer, and aren't having problems, then don't try to fix what isn't that broken.
newlydiagnosed	I have to say, I had been just recovering from another major illness, so my body just wasn't up to healing quickly.
tauruslady	Even an abdominal procedure will be several hours.
kimmywoman	No headache, but had a little sore throat from tube
Bobbeleh	Yep
SurgsoonTX	I only had the surgery when my symptoms got so bad they were interfering with my life for at least half a month
Bobbeleh	Ask for your anti-nausea meds IV before you wake up!
kimmywoman	Yes, got a little nauseated that evening, but they gave me meds for it right away
Bobbeleh	Same here.
scoob523	can we ask about certain doctors
Bobbeleh	Zofran.
newlydiagnosed	yes nausea, but they can give you something for that in the hospital.
newlydiagnosed	Go home with pain meds
fritzi64	Scoob, you can ask.
Bobbeleh	Also, I always ask for Versed/Fentanyl before I go in.
newlydiagnosed	nausia meds
scoob523	I agree with bobbeleh
newlydiagnosed	and stool softener!
SurgsoonTX	Agree on the nausea meds. I planned ahead and just requested it when I got the pain meds. You don't want to wait until you are already sick to your stomach.
loeb42	I assume that we are completely "asleep" when they are prepping ;)
newlydiagnosed	I was.
Bobbeleh	That's my thinking, Surgsoon
Bobbeleh	Absolutely.
Kathy	We can't comment on specific doctors here. The doctors listed on the davinci website - have plenty of experience before they are added there
Bobbeleh	That's where the versed comes in.
SurgsoonTX	Loeb42 yes, you will remember being wheeled into that OR but then I was out pretty quickly. They put the catheter in AFTER I was asleep.
kimmywoman	Last thing I remember is being wheeled in the surgical suite... then woke up in the recovery room
Bobbeleh	Pretty much the same for me.
newlydiagnosed	Yes, I remember the OR room.
newlydiagnosed	then they pu me out.
fritzi64	Scoob, the doctors on the davinci site are put there only when they have enough experience--so that might be the best place to go if you're wondering about particular doctors.
fritzi64	Our chatroom will be open for another twenty minutes.
Bobbeleh	And if you have any concerns about putting tubes in, mention it to the surgeon, the nurse and the anesthesiologist.
fritzi64	I'd like to wrap up the "official" program and invite you to stay and continue asking questions and sharing your experiences with each other.
Bobbeleh	Torturing you is not their game plan.
fritzi64	Thank you, Debbie, for visiting us here at HysterSisters to provide us with information.
SurgsoonTX	I am almost 4 months out and I am loving life!
fritzi64	newlydiagnosed, bobbeleh, kimmywoman, and SurgsoonTX, thank you for opening up your life to share your experiences with

	everyone tonight who is facing a hysterectomy.
newlydiagnosed	keep in mind too that everyone has the surgery for different reasons. so depending on the reasons, what they find, and your condition is going to dictate the OR and recovery time.
debbiedavinci	Thank you for having me here
Bobbeleh	<<<<Surgsoon>>>
fritzi64	Tauruslady, thank you for conducting the interview.
newlydiagnosed	Thank you for the invite!
fritzi64	((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.
newlydiagnosed	:)
tauruslady	Glad to be here
Bobbeleh	Thank you all.
kimmywoman	Thank you all, was great being here
SurgsoonTX	I'll stick around for a few minutes in case anyone has questions.
fritzi64	A transcript of this Roundtable will be available on the Archives tab of our chat entrance tomorrow (unfortunately, without the nice colors and guest speaker avatars).
Bobbeleh	me too
newlydiagnosed	me too.
kimmywoman	Me too
Bobbeleh	Fritzi found me a doggy avatar. :-)
newlydiagnosed	lol
nataliedw	How long does it take for the bloating in the abdomen to go down?
kimmywoman	very cool
SurgsoonTX	I've gone from planning my life and job around which days would be "good days" to totally not even looking at the calendar!
tauruslady	Are there any other questions
fritzi64	And since I accidentally logged myself out, some of your wonderful questions have been lost in cyberspace :(
Bobbeleh	I didn't have that much bloating.
ksetter	hi
tauruslady	Natalie - mine was around for 3 to 4 months
kimmywoman	Swelly belly can last for awhile..everyone is different
ksetter	do you take replacement hormone of some sort after the surgery?
loeb42	What about weight gain?
SurgsoonTX	I didn't have a lot of bloating or swelly belly.
Bobbeleh	I lost weight.
fritzi64	I've removed the moderation, so things will move pretty quickly now!
kimmywoman	I started on HRT 10 days ago
Bobbeleh	But right after the surgery, I had a 7-lb weight gain.
scoob523	did anyone gain weight
newlydiagnosed	I still have bloating issues.
tauruslady	Loeb42 - I'm up about 4 lbs now from pre-surgery weight
kimmywoman	Had night sweats and insomnia
loeb42	Bobbeleh- where and when?
newlydiagnosed	I started HRT 5 days after surgery.
Bobbeleh	Where and when what?
newlydiagnosed	I've gained weight also.
loeb42	I want to lose in my chest ;)
loeb42	lol
Bobbeleh	ROFL
dedmurphy	anyone loose weight?
scoob523	lol
SurgsoonTX	Ksetter....I just visited my NP today to ask about some topical

	estrogen therapy. Sex is great but the "area" tissues are needing some estrogen! I still have one ovary but it's on it's last stand apparently.
newlydiagnosed	lol
kimmywoman	No weight gain, but walk everyday
tauruslady	Ksetter - vaginal estrogen but can't use others because of the cancer
Bobbeleh	I lost 12 lbs within 6 weeks.
SurgsoonTX	I lost 6-7 lbs and have kept it off with daily cycling classes and strength training.
loeb42	So exercise is key?
scoob523	will it help out if i satarting walking alot now until surgery
kimmywoman	Yes
Bobbeleh	Pretty much, Loeb
newlydiagnosed	yes
tauruslady	Don't know if you heard the recent study but it says an hour of exercise for post-menopausal women to maintain their weight.
loeb42	what kind of foods should one eat while in recovery?
scoob523	start*
SurgsoonTX	Loeb...yes, you have to be dilligent with exercise BUT ease into it slowly.
Bobbeleh	Yeah, I heard that.
kimmywoman	I ate bland foods for the first week
newlydiagnosed	soft.
kimmywoman	Helped with gas and constipation
Bobbeleh	Stool softeners.
Bobbeleh	I pretty much ate what I wanted.
newlydiagnosed	moving your bowels for the first time is tough.
loeb42	Any mood swings?
Bobbeleh	Oh it sure is.
kimmywoman	Take your Gas X and stool softeners
Bobbeleh	Not for me.
newlydiagnosed	Gas X is wonderful
SurgsoonTX	Small amounts of whatever tasted good. I thought that first bowel movement would NEVER come! That was truly more painful than the surgery. UGH.
kimmywoman	No mood swings
Bobbeleh	Took Gas X to the hosp with me.
loeb42	what are your hormones doing at this time?
Bobbeleh	I had my first BM the day after surgery.
loeb42	I heard they can be trouble and in shock
newlydiagnosed	I take HRT, so I'm good.
nataliedw	Do doctors let you bring Gas X to hospital?
kimmywoman	Can sleep again..yeah!!
Bobbeleh	Your guts are definitely in shock.
fritzi64	Commercial break: Next week (same place, day, and time), we'll have a pre-op chat to learn what to expect from your pre-op experiences, hospital stay, and recovery. I hope you can join us then, too!
Bobbeleh	Fritzi, I'm also available for the May session.
debbiedavinci	ladies - it's very important to refrain from sex for the prescribed number of weeks after your da vinci hysterectomy - please listen to your doctor! :-)
fritzi64	:)
Bobbeleh	Listen to Debbie.
newlydiagnosed	lol
scoob523	can you have sex up to surgery

newlydiagnosed	wise woman ;)
Bobbeleh	I don't have a partner, but I went back to masturbation about 6 weeks post and it was just fine.
ksetter	i had a cyst removed from my ovary and my bowels went into shock....major pain for 4 days and 4 sleepless nights.
kimmywoman	My doctor said no sex for 4 weeks, but I waited 6.. wanted to be super-healed!
SurgsoonTX	LISTEN TO DEBBIE....you can find tons of horror stories from women who had sex too soon. Bladder fistulas, horrible infections. It's not worth it! I waited two more weeks after my Dr. cleared me too!
Bobbeleh	My "sex" was just as good.
newlydiagnosed	Mine said 6 weeks afer
debbiedavinci	yes, longer is definitely better.
loeb42	How does one know how the "sex" will be after?
Bobbeleh	You don't.
scoob523	how long does a dr. train on the DV before using it on a patient
SurgsoonTX	I don't think you can really know.
newlydiagnosed	ditto
Bobbeleh	Also, it gets better
tauruslady	I was a slow healer and was held off for 10 weeks had issues and had to weight longer
SurgsoonTX	About the sex I mean...not the hours of training!
Bobbeleh	ROFL
newlydiagnosed	lol
fritzi64	My biggest concern about the hysterectomy was post-op sex--and I decided it was a risk worth taking.
loeb42	I have great sex now, but scared that it will be different?? Hubby is scared now because he can feel my uterus =(
Bobbeleh	Yeah, but he'll get used to it.
loeb42	I have uterine prolapse (severe)
newlydiagnosed	The sex itself was fine but my sex drive has gone down tremendously. That's a hormone issue though ~ another forum! :)
SurgsoonTX	Sex is better now because I'm always up for it whereas before ...well, let's just say there was a narrow window of calendar opportunity for my poor DH.
ksetter	he can feel your uterus?
kimmywoman	Just take it slow and easy...
fritzi64	((((Sisters))), thanks for remembering that this is a PG-rated site.
tauruslady	Scoob523 - when I went to see a daVinci system in a training lab.
fritzi64	:)
newlydiagnosed	lol
newlydiagnosed	sorry
tauruslady	The attendant there said that the Dr's have a certain number of hours in the lab
debbiedavinci	on that note, i'm going to sign off for the evening. good night ladies! thanks again for having me.
loeb42	Ksetter- Yes, he said he feels something that he didn't before =(
kimmywoman	My doc had to do 20 before he could go solo
Bobbeleh	Nite Debbie
Bobbeleh	:lol"
Kathy	good night Debbie deavinci!
nataliedw	Thank you
SurgsoonTX	Loeb, I'll be honest and tell you that my Dh says he can tell things are "different" inside. But he got over that really quickly. It's a tradeoff!
kimmywoman	good night and thanks
loeb42	Thanks

Bobbeleh	:lol:
tauruslady	and then they have to watch some procedures
newlydiagnosed	thanks debbie
fritzi64	Thanks for being here, Debbie!
tauruslady	Good by debbie, thanks
Bobbeleh	I never could feel my uterus during orgasm anyway.
newlydiagnosed	Best advice I could give is to REST, REST, REST.
loeb42	but I haven't had surgery yet, and he says it feels "different"
tauruslady	Did we have questions earlier about surgical menopause?
tauruslady	I don't know if that member is still here?
SurgsoonTX	I agree Bobbeleh....I could never feel my uterus or cervix either so *I* don't notice a difference really.
ksetter	i would think it would feel different if your cervix was removed...more so than the uterus???
Bobbeleh	Nope.
Bobbeleh	Not for me anyway.
scoob523	i dont think we talked about that yet
kimmywoman	No difference noticed for me
SurgsoonTX	I had my cervix removed and I don't feel a difference at.all.
loeb42	I think it is due to severe prolapse =(
fritzi64	How everything feels after surgery is a very individual thing.
newlydiagnosed	I don't have cervix or uterus and it is fine.
Bobbeleh	I like the fact that with no cervix, no more PAP smears.
loeb42	Nothing has been removed yet ;)
nataliedw	I am scared about prolapse...can we talk more about that?
tauruslady	I did feel a difference and as Chris says it is very individual you won't be able to tell before hand
fritzi64	I don't miss my cervix, but there are women who do.
newlydiagnosed	No more papsmeas depends on the reason.
fritzi64	Natalie, you mean bladder prolapse?
scoob523	I dont feel that waiting can be a bad thing
loeb42	I have prolapse
nataliedw	Yes
tauruslady	There can still be vaginal vault smears
newlydiagnosed	I have to have them now every 3-4 months for two years, then every 6 months for the next three years. :(
tauruslady	To see if any endometrial tissue has gone cancerouse
Bobbeleh	That's fine. I hated having my cervix goofed with.
tauruslady	I still have them.
ksetter	vaginal vault...hmmmm
Bobbeleh	In have no endo material left.
tauruslady	Newlydiagnosed same as me.
fritzi64	We have a forum for Pelvic Floor & Bladder Issues--and that might be a place to visit after your surgery if you have any trouble.
newlydiagnosed	lucky us! ;)
Bobbeleh	Yup.
newlydiagnosed	This site is absolutely a God-send
nataliedw	thank you fritzi64
fritzi64	I still have pap smears, as I had some dormant HPV that flared up a few years ago and caused some cellular changes on the vaginal wall.
tauruslady	Ksetter - when your cervix is removed that is what they call the vaginal vault. The top where the cervix is removed is called teh vaginal cuff
newlydiagnosed	It helped me sooo much.
Bobbeleh	I tend to forget I had surgery.
loeb42	is there a way not to see the OR? That would freak me out- unless they give me a sedative ;)

ksetter	fritzi can you email us this chat to read?
kimmywoman	I have to have paps every 5 years now
Bobbeleh	I'm pretty clean medically. No issues other than I began bleeding after 3 years.
newlydiagnosed	They can give you something to "relax" before they wheel you in.
scoob523	i agree. so much information. I would like to share with my husband
tauruslady	Loeb - it won't be very long that you would see it. I don't know if they can do that
newlydiagnosed	Most of the time that puts me out.
newlydiagnosed	:)
Bobbeleh	Versed.
fritzi64	I'll be posting the chat on the site rather than emailing it.
dedmurphy	can you see the robot before sugery?
fritzi64	It will be a .pdf file that is well over 20 pages.
tauruslady	There is a MisterHysterSisters site that has some content for husbands
newlydiagnosed	Yes, I seen it. It's prety big.
kimmywoman	They can put you out beforehand..just ask
ksetter	or significant others?
Bobbeleh	I can't remember seeing it.
tauruslady	DedMurphy - they had it draped with a surgical gown and said "that's where it is" but I didn't see it
Bobbeleh	I remember someone kind of dropped a mask on my face.
fritzi64	I wear glasses, so everything in the OR was a fuzzy image to me :)
Bobbeleh	Don't really remember anything else.
scoob523	i am even more scared now. sorry
newlydiagnosed	lol
kimmywoman	what can we do to reassure you
Bobbeleh	You'll do fine, scoob.
newlydiagnosed	oh no, what can we do to help?
newlydiagnosed	what part scares you the most?
Bobbeleh	Is there someone who can be with you pre-operatively?
tauruslady	Scoob523 - you'll be okay, you can post fears in pre-op forum and get lots of support.
ksetter	why would someone decide on the divinci as opposed to other conventional procedures?
loeb42	Thank you everyone for the wonderful info!! I feel informed now ;) Nite from TX!
fritzi64	Thanks for comign, loeb42
tauruslady	night loeb42
kimmywoman	less invasive, less pain, faster recovery
newlydiagnosed	less pain, quicker recovery
fritzi64	Scoob, when is your surgery?
Bobbeleh	What she said!
scoob523	i have never ever had surgery. I thought it was a faster way to go. I dont really feel bad at all and this seems like a lot. its may 19
ksetter	longer surgery though?
Bobbeleh	You'll be asleep
tauruslady	KSetter - should be as long as regular surgery.
kimmywoman	mine was shorter than if I had gone abdominal
ksetter	ok, thanks
Bobbeleh	I had my first gen. anesthesia for back surgery. AFter that, I was less scared.
Kathy	Scoob, why are you having surgery?
Bobbeleh	It's the unknown that's scary.
tauruslady	It may be what all work is being done and your body. Mine was

	around 4 hours.
newlydiagnosed	the wait is really the hardest part
newlydiagnosed	really.
Bobbeleh	Truly
fritzi64	If you're scared, just let all the nurses and doctors know.
Bobbeleh	I had a friend come with me and she sang to me until they took me to surgery.
kimmywoman	Yes, waiting was the hardest part. When you get home you can focus on healing...before then you just worry, worry, worry
newlydiagnosed	they can also give you something prior to relax you.
fritzi64	I have a thing about needles, and all I needed to say was, I don't like needles, and they went and found the most gentle person to insert my IV
scoob523	I have a cist 5.8 on my overy and fibrod on uterus. my dr does not like the size of the cist and when i have periods which is not often heavy bleeding,so i am thinking i really dont need to do this after all
Kathy	Have you had a second opinion? Do you have cancer? (If not, you are not in an emergency and can put it off until you know it is right for you)
kimmywoman	Sweet friend!
Bobbeleh	Totally!
tauruslady	Scoob523 - sounds like a 2nd opinion is in order
kimmywoman	Get a second opinion
newlydiagnosed	have you got a second opinion?
ksetter	i think it sounds to me that the da vinci procedure would be best especially of I have endo on my other organs cuz if i have been paying attention, conventional surgery would not get rid of endo on other organs. right???
Bobbeleh	She stayed with me from 5:30 a.m. until 9:00 p.m.
tauruslady	KSetter - not true
Bobbeleh	I can't see any reason not to do a daVinci.
kimmywoman	They got endo they didn't know I had
tauruslady	The dr will remove the endo whether daVinci or open. The magnification can help with removing it
Bobbeleh	Also, with a da Vinci, there is no worries about the incision coming open.
ksetter	oh okay, thanks tauruslady
fritzi64	Ladies, our chatroom will be closing in five minutes.
tauruslady	However it depends on the preferred method that the Dr. uses for removing endo. The important thing is to get rid of the endo regardless of the type of surgery
Bobbeleh	Thanks, fritzi
fritzi64	Again, I'd like to invite you to our pre-op chat next week.
scoob523	no, I dont really go to drs much. i know its bad not to go, this was the result of my yearly checkup but it was a very long time between checkups and i wasnt expecting this
Bobbeleh	My fear of cancer trumped my fear of surgery.
newlydiagnosed	would highly recommend a second opinion.
scoob523	i just need to think about it some more. this chat has been so helpful
tauruslady	Scoob523 - definitely go for 2nd opinion or see what other alternatives and options are out there
fritzi64	The pre-op chats are wonderful places to ask surgery-related questions and feel like you aren't alone in your feelings about the surgery
kimmywoman	I didn't expect mine either. Was not having any problems. Big shock.

ksetter	ok thanks everyone, very informative
tauruslady	Visit the alternatives forum.
newlydiagnosed	finding my cancer early saved my life.
newlydiagnosed	i'm sure of that.
Bobbeleh	Yay, Newlydxd
scoob523	i did see the ultra sound dr in the hospital but does that count as a second opinion
Bobbeleh	Female cancers can be silent and that's what scared me.
kimmywoman	Good night everyone... take care and good luck!!
Bobbeleh	Nite Kimmy
ksetter	night all :)
newlydiagnosed	i would get all of your test results an take to a seperate doctor.
scoob523	thank u so much to all of your for talking
Kathy	Scoob, yes, please get a second and third opinion. It would probably be important to understand/know about your ovarian cyst to make sure it is not cancer. But otherwise, unless cancer IS involved, you are not in emergency to have to have surgery
fritzi64	Scoob, ask your doctor lots of questions, and visit our Options and Alternatives forum for help in figuring out what questions to ask.
scoob523	have a good night
fritzi64	It's time to close up, everyone!
Bobbeleh	There's an area in this website with all the questions you should ask.
newlydiagnosed	good night everyone!
Bobbeleh	Nite Everyone!
scoob523	NIGHT
WalkingLady	Thank you and good night!
newlydiagnosed	scoob, get on the forums, they are great!
micmouse	thanks good night
newlydiagnosed	And they can answer ost of your qauestions
fritzi64	It's time to log out, and if you get a message that you've been kicked, well, that's just part of the closing-up procedure.
scoob523	ok, thank you
newlydiagnosed	Good night.
fritzi64	Thanks for being here!

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