

A Roundtable Discussion: Exploring Hysterectomy Options




May 13, 2010




Panelists: newlydiagnosed, Bobbeleh, and kimmywoman

Isavril	Hi everyone
Bobbeleh	Hi Kelly cat
fritzi64	Hi kellycat
photoflygrl	hi. is this where to be about the DaVinci
newlydiagnosed	Hi kellycat
Bobbeleh	Yep
kimmywoman	hi kellycat
tauruslady	Welcome to the daVinci chat kellycat
fritzi64	Yes, this is our da Vinci roundtable
kellycat	Hi everyone
fritzi64	We'll be getting started in several minutes.
Bobbeleh	Get those fingers warmed up LOL
fritzi64	It takes people a while to get here and get settled in.
Bobbeleh	I see the emoticons are working.
kimmywoman	:) :)
tauruslady	Hi chipndale
Bobbeleh	hi chipndale
fritzi64	Hi chipndale
newlydiagnosed	Hi chipndale
kimmywoman	hi chipndale
kellycat	hi chipndale
Isavril	hi chipndale:)
chipndale	Hello, everyone..
Bobbeleh	Hi marleemagoo
fritzi64	Hi marleemagoo
newlydiagnosed	Himarleemagoo
kellycat	Hi marleemagoo
tauruslady	welcome to the chat marleemagoo
kimmywoman	hi marleemagoo
marleemagoo	Hi everyone
Bobbeleh	Nice daisy
Bobbeleh	or wait...
kimmywoman	pretty avatar!
Bobbeleh	that's a sun, isn't it?
marleemagoo	I think its a daisy
newlydiagnosed	lol
Bobbeleh	A sunny daisy
kimmywoman	there you go
Bobbeleh	LOL
newlydiagnosed	very nice.
marleemagoo	perfect :)
Bobbeleh	Hi beachBum1
newlydiagnosed	Hi beachbum1
marleemagoo	hi beachbum
tauruslady	welcome to the chat beachbum1
fritzi64	Hi BeachBum1
kimmywoman	hello BeachBum1
Isavril	hi bachbum
BeachBum1	Hi all!

fritzi64	We'll be getting started in one minute!
kellycat	Hi beach bum 1
BeachBum1	glad i didn't miss anything! this is my first time, and it took me a few minutes to figure this thing out! lol
Bobbeleh	Glad yu did...
kimmywoman	glad you made it
fritzi64	That's why we are starting a couple minutes late, BeachBum!
Bobbeleh	It can work perfectly...
marleemagoo	took me a few minutes to get in as well
Bobbeleh	or it can go very, very wrong.
Bobbeleh	Trust me, I know. Bwahahaha
fritzi64	All right--let's go!
fritzi64	Welcome to our Roundtable tonight!
fritzi64	We are so glad you are here.
fritzi64	In this roundtable discussion, 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 focuses on the subject of da Vinci 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 daVinci representative in the discussion with us tonight.
fritzi64	And daVinci 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 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.
fritzi64	Here's how tonight's Roundtable will work:
fritzi64	One of our HysterSisters hostesses, Tauruslady, will be interviewing our roundtable panelists who have had the daVinci hysterectomy procedure and will share their experiences.
fritzi64	(hi learnmore)
fritzi64	Tauruslady also had a da Vinci hysterectomy.
fritzi64	I may also be asking a few questions as we proceed.
fritzi64	Our panelists are newlydiagnosed, 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 every comment you type will be held in a queue and will appear in the chat window when it fits in.

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.
tauruslady	newlydiagnosed, bobbeleh, and kimmywoman, can you tell us a little about yourselves? **
newlydiagnosed	I am married, have three children and one grandchild. I live in Maryland, work as an Human Resources Director, and I am very happy to be a part of this forum tonight!! :) **
kimmywoman	I am 59 and live with hubby and animals in Washington State Welcome All **
Bobbeleh	I'm Bobbeleh... I'm single, live with a dog, and am passionate about dogs, reading, cooking and of course eating. I'm a medical transcriptionist and work from home
tauruslady	Debbie, can you tell us about yourself and your relationship with daVinci? **
debbiedavinci	I work in the marketing dept at Intuitive Surgical and I help to educate surgeons on using this technology. **
fritzi64	((HysterSisters)) members, can you share with us one question that you hope to have answered during our time together this evening?
fritzi64	We won't be addressing your questions right away, but it helps us to have an idea what you hope to learn this evening.
Isavril	is there less chance of complications with this surgery
fritzi64	It looks like several of you are busy typing your questions--when you're ready, just click on Send or press Enter.
chipndale	hello, i have had the daVinci surgery, and ended up going through with the abdomen surdery as well...
Bobbeleh	Sorry to hear that, chip
photoflygrl	My doctor doesnt want to cut up the fibroids. Says even though the risk of cancer is very low, it is not advisable to cut them up-just in case-I prefer to have laproscopic or DaVinci but dont know what to do. Do you have an opinion on this?
fritzi64	Photoflygrl, we can't provide medical opinions, but we can help you figure out some good questions to ask your doctors.
kellycat	I hope to learn how difficult recovery time and how long more or less it takes to get back in to the swing of things. More or less what to expect.
BeachBum1	i'm not familiar with davinci. can you give a brief overview of it?
marleemagoo	I am 7 weeks post op today from daVinci
Bobbeleh	8 months post-op this past Mother's Day
kimmywoman	10 weeks post op
fritzi64	Thank you for sharing your questions with us. I think you'll find that we get to a lot of that as we go along. **
Isavril	my uterus is enlarged ...is it safe to do the davinci
Bobbeleh	Yep.
tauruslady	newlydiagnosed, what brought you to the hysterectomy experience?
newlydiagnosed	I was diagnosed with cervical cancer in November, 2009. After many tests and biopsies, my oncologist recommended a radical hysterectomy via daVinci. **
tauruslady	bobbeleh, what brought you to the experience?
Bobbeleh	I started bleeding after 3 years post-menopause on M's Day 2009. After a hysteroscopy I decided to just have them yank everything. I'm more afraid of cancer than I was of potential menopausal symptoms.
Bobbeleh	***

tauruslady	And kimmywoman, what about you?
kimmywoman	I was diagnosed with enlarged fibroids and suspicious ovary when I was post-menopausal. So started researching my options and came upon the da Vinci surgery on the HysterSister website. Found a doc in Spokane and scheduled with him
kimmywoman	***
tauruslady	Debbie, could you explain how the da Vinci Surgical System works?*
debbiedavinci	The da Vinci System consists of three main components. In the diagram below, from left to right, are: the surgeon console, the patient side cart and the vision system. All three components help the surgeon perform the surgery successfully.
debbiedavinci	
debbiedavinci	First component - the vision system (far right in above diagram) projects the operating image to the surgeon and on a monitor.
debbiedavinci	Second component - the surgeon console is where the surgeon sits during surgery, allowing him/her to see inside the patient's body with a 3D camera at 10 times magnification.
debbiedavinci	
debbiedavinci	At the console, the surgeon also controls the instruments that operate inside the patient's body.
debbiedavinci	
debbiedavinci	The operating instruments' movements correspond to the surgeon's hand movements, and are under the surgeon's complete control at all times.

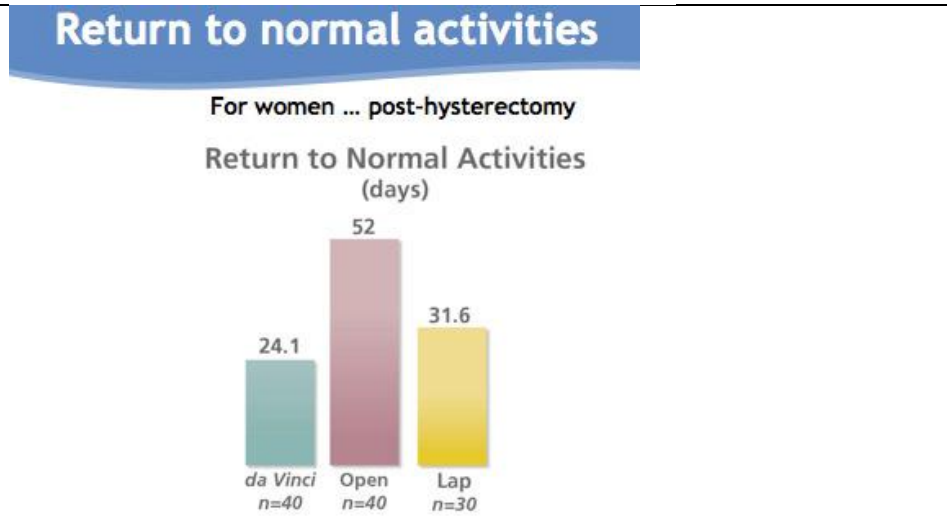
debbiedavinci		<p>Surgeon directs precise movements of the instruments using Console controls</p>
debbiedavinci	<p>Third component - the patient side cart (sometimes referred to as the "robot") consists of 4 "arms" that hold the camera and the operating instruments that are controlled by the surgeon at the surgeon console. **</p>	
debbiedavinci		
tauruslady	<p>What does it mean that there is a "robot" involved?</p>	
debbiedavinci	<p>The surgeon is seated at the surgeon console controlling the operating instruments on the robot. Usually there is also a patient-side assistant (a doctor or nurse) standing next to the patient and the robot at the OR table during surgery.**</p>	
tauruslady	<p>Debbie, what are some of the general benefits of da Vinci surgery as opposed to other hysterectomy options?</p>	
debbiedavinci	<p>The main benefit of da Vinci surgery is that it is a minimally invasive approach. Our specially designed operating instruments allow the surgeon to work through small incisions in the abdomen.</p>	
debbiedavinci	<p>These EndoWrist instruments are even more flexible than the human wrist " which allows the surgeon to handle difficulties with the patient's anatomy.</p>	
debbiedavinci		
debbiedavinci	<p>Compared to other hysterectomy options such as TAH (total abdominal hyst or open surgery), laparoscopic or vaginal hysterectomy, studies have shown that the da Vinci approach results in faster recovery back to work, shorter stay in the hospital, smaller incisions, less blood loss, and less pain. **</p>	

debbiedavinci

Surgical Approaches to Gynecologic Conditions

Open (abdominal) surgery da Vinci® Hysterectomy (robot -assisted surgery)

debbiedavinci



debbiedavinci

Benefit	Open Surgery	da Vinci® Surgery
Incision size	Long incision with visible scarring	4-6 dime-sized incisions with minimal scarring
Pain or discomfort	Weeks	Days
Hospital stay	3-5 days	1-2 days
Recovery	4-6 weeks	1-3 weeks
Return to normal activities	Weeks	Days

tauruslady

We'd like to ask our panelists why they chose to have the da Vinci procedure.

tauruslady

Bobbeleh, why did you choose the da Vinci?*

Bobbeleh

With me it was luck of the draw... my gyn is a daVinci surgeon. It's what she offered -- once her eyebrows returned to their normal position when I said I wanted a hysterectomy. I'm sort of preemptive.

Bobbeleh

tauruslady

Newlydiagnosed, what about you?*

newlydiagnosed

Honestly, it was also chosen for me. Once my oncologist stated he

	needed to do a radical hysterectomy, he told me he was doing the daVinci.
newlydiagnosed	I then went home and did my research and found that it was less invasive and a much quicker recovery time.
newlydiagnosed	***
tauruslady	And kimmywoman?
kimmywoman	Shorter recovery time, minimally invasive.. in overnight and home the next day. I had absolutely no blood loss ... felt good in a short period of time. Very happy with procedure and recovery. Glad I did my homework! ***
tauruslady	How important was it to you to seek a second opinion in making your decision about hysterectomy type?
newlydiagnosed	Important, but did not change the outcome. **
Bobbeleh	I knew I wanted a lap type procedure if at all possible.
Bobbeleh	***
kimmywoman	I thoughtfully discussed it with my primary care. For me, he was my second opinion
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?
fritzi64	While you're answering that, I'm going to let through just a couple other comments from earlier.
chipndale	as I am also, 7 weeks for me.
photoflygrl	I realize you cant give a medical opinion, but I guess the question is-is this a common concern-cutting the fibroids up and releasing cancer cells?
kellycat	I will be having the davinci june 30
marleemagoo	I saw 2 different doctors but in the same practice
chipndale	definitely
Bobbeleh	I just couldn't imagine having to recover from a traditional procedure***
Isavril	I am having my da vinci on June 11th...I did seek a second opinion
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
laurarose	gyn recommended TH and referred me to gyn/onc who did davinci
photoflygrl	I have two people giving me different opinions.
Bobbeleh	My "2nd opinions" were mostly from my friends who'd already had hysterectomies.
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. But we deserve to explore other options. It is not a backhand to our doctors.
fritzi64	Doctors will often 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.
kimmywoman	My friend's husband had the da Vinci for prostate surgery and was very impressed. So that helped me decide too
Bobbeleh	An MD who has a prob with that probably shouldn't be cutting into your body.
tauruslady	Debbie, each of these panelists made a decision, along with her doctor, about what was best for her own medical situation.

tauruslady	We'd like to ask about the da Vinci hysterectomy in regards to the specific medical conditions they faced.
tauruslady	What are the benefits specific to women having a hysterectomy for gynecological cancer? **
debbiedavinci	Before I answer, please bear in mind that as with any surgery, these benefits cannot be guaranteed, as surgery is patient-, surgeon-, and procedure-specific.
debbiedavinci	For patients with gynecological cancer, the da Vinci System allows for precise removal of lymph nodes, which helps in the staging of the cancer. Because of our EndoWrist instruments, the 3D vision, and 10 times magnification, the da Vinci System provides an equal or better outcome than open surgery while being minimally invasive.
debbiedavinci	It is especially beneficial for women in cancer treatment to have a quicker recovery and therefore less time between surgery and possible follow-on treatments. **
tauruslady	Debbie, what are the benefits specific to women having a hysterectomy for fibroids?
debbiedavinci	Same benefits. Patients with fibroids are still candidates for a da Vinci hysterectomy. Our System enables the surgeon to operate through 3 - 5 small incisions even for patients with multiple fibroids. **
tauruslady	Debbie, how does fibroid size affect whether a woman is a candidate for a da Vinci Hysterectomy?
debbiedavinci	The fibroid size often influences the size of the uterus. Patients with large fibroids or a big uterus are still candidates for a da Vinci hysterectomy.
debbiedavinci	A new study just came out looking at da Vinci hysterectomy for patients with large uteri, and the patient outcomes were excellent. **
tauruslady	Debbie, what are the benefits specific to women having a hysterectomy for heavy bleeding?
photoflygrl	That's interesting you mention that. I do feel disloyal to many regular Gyno-who has been great to me-but I am still getting other opinions. It helps to know that other women feel that same loyalty issue.
debbiedavinci	Same benefits. Patients with heavy bleeding are candidates for a da Vinci hysterectomy.
tauruslady	Debbie, what are the benefits specific to women having a hysterectomy for endometriosis?
debbiedavinci	Patients with endometriosis are candidates for a da Vinci hysterectomy.
debbiedavinci	For patients with endometriosis, good vision of the anatomy, and the ability to reach all the areas which contain endometriosis are very important.
marleemagoo	I had a huge uterus filled with large fibroids and my doctor was still able to do daVinci
debbiedavinci	Firstly, the da Vinci system provides 3D vision and 10 times magnification of the anatomy. Laparoscopic cameras provide 2D vision (no depth perception of the anatomy). Precision comes with good vision.
debbiedavinci	Secondly, the EndoWrist instruments let the surgeon reach all the areas that contain endometriosis.
tauruslady	Debbie, many endometriosis experts have a strong preference for either a laser or a scalpel to excise endometriosis. What are the biggest concerns with these in regards to the da Vinci system?
debbiedavinci	The lasers or scalpels are not wristed, so it may not always be easy to reach all the areas that contain endometriosis. **

tauruslady	Debbie, with all these benefits, why are the other types of procedures still being done?
debbiedavinci	A few reasons – Firstly, since our FDA approval for GYN surgery in 2005, we have trained thousands of GYN surgeons. However, many OB/GYNs are simply not trained in minimally invasive techniques. Open surgery is still the standard approach taught in many residency programs.
debbiedavinci	Secondly, many GYN surgeons simply don't do enough surgeries to make it worth their time to learn a new technology.
debbiedavinci	Thirdly, not every GYN has access to a da Vinci System or is even aware of the technology. We're changing that every day, but it takes time.
debbiedavinci	There are hundreds of hospitals in the US offering da Vinci surgery, so if your GYN does not offer da Vinci surgery, you may wish to consider getting a second opinion to see if da Vinci surgery is right for you.
debbiedavinci	You owe it to yourself to explore all your options. **
chipndale	I was totally shocked to learn that one of the arms on the machine was not working properly, and that the doctor had to go to the traditional method after starting the procedure.
tauruslady	Bobbeleh, newlydiagnosed, and kimmywoman what were your concerns about the da Vinci hysterectomy?
Bobbeleh	For me it was that the insurance wouldn't cover it.
Bobbeleh	**
kimmywoman	I really didn't have any. Just the normal fears associated with any surgery
newlydiagnosed	My biggest concern was pain and the length of time I was under anasthesia. However, the pain was very manageable and I was home the next day!
newlydiagnosed	***
tauruslady	Debbie, are there any situations where a dVH is not the best option for someone?
debbiedavinci	This is a question only your surgeon can answer, but we have found that da Vinci surgery is an option even in complex cases, where surgeons would not normally be able to use a laparoscopic approach.**
tauruslady	Panelists, we'd like to ask about your surgery and recovery. Do did everything go?
tauruslady	kimmywoman, tell us about your surgery and recovery.
Bobbeleh	I'm allergic to demerol -- they found that out afterwards... it ran long, but everything went fine.
kimmywoman	I had an extremely good recovery. Felt good after 2 weeks
kimmywoman	And was exercising after 4 weeks
tauruslady	newlydiagnosed, how did your surgery go, and how are you doing?
kimmywoman	***
Bobbeleh	I had no energy and found that I wasn't in pain as long as I stayed lying down
newlydiagnosed	My surgery went well It was a bit long, but the recovery was OK.
Bobbeleh	My intestines were a bit pissed, but other than that, and my vagina felt really beat up...
newlydiagnosed	I did have a set back a couple of weeks into my recovery
Bobbeleh	Compared to a traditional, tho, I think I did really well.
newlydiagnosed	because I overdid it.
newlydiagnosed	One suggestion ~ take it easy and rest! :)
Bobbeleh	Energy level came and went.
newlydiagnosed	**
Bobbeleh	I was driving a stick shift after 4 days.

Bobbeleh	**
tauruslady	Debbie, we've had several women ask about conversions. I understand that this means starting out with a planned minimally invasive surgery"but then during the operation, the surgeon has to change to open abdominal surgery.
tauruslady	Could you provide any statistics on how often that happens in laparoscopic hysterectomy?
debbiedavinci	Yes, that is correct. Conversions do happen for several reasons. Most commonly it's because of the presence of adhesions. Adhesions usually occur in patients who have had prior pelvic surgeries, such as C-sections.
Bobbeleh	That nearly happened to me.
debbiedavinci	The conversion rate varies from surgeon to surgeon, but in a study done by a highly-skilled GYN surgeon, Dr. Thomas Payne in Baton Rouge, he found, to his surprise, that his conversion rate was around 20% for laparoscopic hysterectomy.
tauruslady	Debbie, how does this compare to how often a da Vinci hysterectomy is converted to an open abdominal surgery?
debbiedavinci	In the same study, this surgeon's conversion rate for da Vinci hysterectomy was 4% initially as he was learning the new technology. After 75 cases, his conversion rate fell to 0%. **
Bobbeleh	Impressive
fritzi64	((HysterSisters))), what questions do you have about who is and is not a candidate for a daVinci hysterectomy?
AGinDC	Is it possible also due to large fibroids?
photoflygrl	bobbeleh-sorry-what kind of hysterectomy did you have?
kimmywoman	I don't believe my surgeon has ever had a conversion and he only does da Vinci
Bobbeleh	DaVinci
Bobbeleh	They grabbed everything.
Bobbeleh	With cervix removal, they go in thru the vagina anyway.
Bobbeleh	**
kimmywoman	Everything went...uterus, tubes, ovaries
kimmywoman	kept my cervix, though**
tauruslady	Debbie, what are the best questions to ask a doctor about recovery care specific to the robotic surgery?
Bobbeleh	I'm a DES daughter... didn't want to keep the cervix
debbiedavinci	Check out the new "Checkpoints" section on HysterSisters. I like it and it covers a lot of useful questions to ask your doctor.**
tauruslady	Debbie, what are the most common concerns and questions that women have about the da Vinci Hysterectomy?
kimmywoman	Good decision
debbiedavinci	The question we hear most often is: Am I a candidate?
debbiedavinci	Check out the da Vinci Surgery homepage for more information, and for finding a surgeon who performs da Vinci hysterectomies. Be sure to ask your da Vinci surgeon all the questions you have about the procedure.
debbiedavinci	www.davinciHysterectomy.com
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 da Vinci procedure?
Bobbeleh	My home away from home for a while there.
debbiedavinci	Overweight patients are still candidates for a da Vinci hysterectomy.
debbiedavinci	A study done by Dr. John Boggess at the University of North Carolina shows excellent outcomes even in patients classified as "morbidly obese" (those with a body mass index or "BMI" greater than 40).
Bobbeleh	I'm considered obese at 5'6" and 215 lbs.

debbiedavinci	Every woman was able to leave the hospital the next day and nobody got converted to an open surgery.**
Bobbeleh	I weighed 226 lbs when I had my surgery.
debbiedavinci	:bmi-conv:
tauruslady	Debbie, also we're asked about adhesions and whether laparoscopic procedures cause fewer adhesions
debbiedavinci	Every woman responds differently to surgery. 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	Go for it!
Bobbeleh	I would choose that option again.
kimmywoman	Read as much as you can about it and ask questions of your doctor**
debbiedavinci	Someone said that her doctor had to convert to open surgery when one of the robot arms wasn't working. I'd like to address that question.
newlydiagnosed	Do your research. Do what is best for you. The daVinci was best for me. Better recover, less pain, less invasive. A great option! **
Bobbeleh	It's a tough question... this is a one-shot deal... no do-overs.
Bobbeleh	**
debbiedavinci	As far as I know, this does not happen often. The robot is an expensive medical equipment that is regularly maintained.
newlydiagnosed	The wait is the hardest part. After the surgery, rest and ice works best ***
debbiedavinci	Further, the robot has 3 arms. If one arm doesn't work, an experienced doctor can usually finish the da Vinci with the other 2 arms.
Bobbeleh	Another consideration for conversion is how the patient tolerates the anesthesia and surgery.
debbiedavinci	We also have field engineers who do check ups and tests on the robots at hospitals on a regular basis.
debbiedavinci	**
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	Online you can visit www.daVinciHysterectomy.com or www.daVinciStories.com . You can read/watch stories from other da Vinci Surgery patients. You can also find a da Vinci surgeon near you, and get clinical data references.
debbiedavinci	We strongly encourage women to get a second or third opinion from a trained da Vinci surgeon to see if you are a candidate for da Vinci Surgery.
debbiedavinci	Multiple opinions will give you a better understanding of all factors and treatment options, and chances are HIGH that you are a candidate for da Vinci hysterectomy.**
fritzi64	Tauruslady, since you're a hostess here, 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.
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.
tauruslady	Of course there are links to the daVinci site from HysterSisters.
Bobbeleh	The preop forums are super.
tauruslady	For the brave of heart you can watch videos of various surgeries.
fritzi64	((HysterSisters)), what questions do you have for our panelists?
kimmywoman	I did watch a YouTube video..very interesting
fritzi64	Remember, please remember that this is only for general information and you will not be given personal answers that could be considered medical advice
Bobbeleh	I didn't have the guts to
AGinDC	Are women with large fibroids candidates for DaVinci? How does DaVinci differ from a regular laproscopic?
Bobbeleh	Yes... I had fibroids and a polyp. and I'm fat.
Bobbeleh	My guess is that a surgeon with laparotomy experience is a better choice than one who isn't
Bobbeleh	or doesn't
Bobbeleh	**
fritzi64	While you're thinking about your questions, I'd like to say that a transcript of tonight's Roundtable will be posted in our chat archives tomorrow.
kimmywoman	I had a fibroid and a tumor hiding behind my ovary
debbiedavinci	Regular laparoscopic is done with 2D and straight instrument that have no wrists.
debbiedavinci	da Vinci surgery is 3D with EndoWrist instruments.
debbiedavinci	2D means a lack of depth perception when doing the surgery.
AGinDC	fascinating!
Bobbeleh	Other than really sore vagina and guts, my sorest spot was the upper left incision.
debbiedavinci	This could affect accuracy when the surgeon is trying to reach certain parts of your body
Bobbeleh	Most people say that.
fritzi64	What other questions do you all have for our panelists about their experiences with the da Vinci hysterectomy?
debbiedavinci	Straight instruments with no wrists mean that it can be more difficult to reach certain parts of your anatomy.
debbiedavinci	With da Vinci, 3D and wristed instruments allow for better reach when doing the surgery
fritzi64	Questions? Anyone?
debbiedavinci	more accuracy
newlydiagnosed	Don't be shy! :)
Bobbeleh	We don't bite... honest LOL
fritzi64	While we can't give medical advice, we can share some questions we think are helpful in thinking through your own decisions about your surgery.
newlydiagnosed	Been there, done that, have the t-shirt! Ask away! :)
Bobbeleh	Me too
fritzi64	I'd like to say some "thank you's." Thank you, Debbie, for visiting us here at HysterSisters to provide us with information.
fritzi64	Bobbeleh, kimmywoman, and newlydiagnosed, thank you for opening up your life to share your experiences with everyone tonight who is facing a hysterectomy.
kimmywoman	My surgery lasted a little under an hour and I was in my room in a very short period of time
fritzi64	Tauruslady, thank you for conducting the interview.
chipndale	How much experience does a doctor have to have in this surgery, to be qualified?
Bobbeleh	Mine was probably 5-6 hours.

Bobbeleh	I handle anesthesia well...
Bobbeleh	they almost converted to a mini
debbiedavinci	This varies by hospital. Each hospital has a different set of qualification criteria.
Bobbeleh	By the way, my longest incision is half an inch -- the other four are less than 1/2 that.
kimmywoman	I think my doc had to assist in 20 procedures before he was allowed to do one himself
chipndale	Do they usually do more than one surgery in a day??
Bobbeleh	I'd never heard of DaVinci before
kimmywoman	Now that is all he will do, he no longer does traditional surgery
debbiedavinci	Some hospitals require 20 cases to be credentialed. Other hospitals require more cases to be qualified.
newlydiagnosed	My surgery lasted about 7 hours. A little longer than normal. Not sure why. I had an allergic reaction after (not related to the daVinci). Overall, I can't imagine having a hysterectomy any other way. **
Bobbeleh	Me too, ND.
Bobbeleh	I'm allergic to demerol...
newlydiagnosed	iodine.
tauruslady	Chipndale - I can't say how many they would do in a day
Bobbeleh	found out as I was coming out of anesthesia.
debbiedavinci	7 hours is unusual
tauruslady	I'm thinking 2 at the max.
kimmywoman	So glad I chose the da Vinci
Bobbeleh	Me too
debbiedavinci	some surgeons do 4-5 cases a day
Isavril	do you get bad shoulder pain after the surgery
tauruslady	I was a morning patient and in my room right after lunch
newlydiagnosed	me three! :)
Bobbeleh	I didn't
Bobbeleh	Farted a lot
tauruslady	so they would have had time for more
newlydiagnosed	no shoulder pain.
kimmywoman	Gas pain...took GasX and tried to walk a lot
debbiedavinci	many cases I've been in are between 2-3 hours
debbiedavinci	or less
Bobbeleh	Walking for me was tough...
newlydiagnosed	Gas X worked great.
Bobbeleh	My intestines were not happy.
Isavril	thanks
Bobbeleh	I took GasX too
newlydiagnosed	I came home with cathedar to.
Bobbeleh	I pooped by day 2
newlydiagnosed	Had it for five days.
Bobbeleh	Ouch
Bobbeleh	Mine was gone the next day...
tauruslady	I sat with a trainer for daVinci and they indicated that as the surgeon gets more comfortable they should complete in the same time as if they had been doing an open or sorter
Bobbeleh	I peed cuz I didn't want it back in.
tauruslady	shorter
kimmywoman	Some people have constipation, others have diarrhea..
Bobbeleh	Take your Colace!
newlydiagnosed	I'm not sure why mine took so long. I had uterus, both ovaries, cervix, and lymph nodes removed.
Bobbeleh	Gravity becomes your BFF

kimmywoman	Yes, Miralax and Colace
Bobbeleh	I know why mine did ... apparently I have a very long vagina
Isavril	why did you come home with a catheder..is that usual
newlydiagnosed	I ended up having to use a regular laxative. The first BM was rough. After that it was OK.
Bobbeleh	Yeah agreed
tauruslady	I will say that for me I was off for 6 weeks, I didn't have the 2 week recovery that some have especially those that keep their cervix.
kimmywoman	They took my catheter out before I left the surgical suite
Bobbeleh	I was off for 4 weeks.
newlydiagnosed	Not sure if that is usual, but my bladder was "a slee"
newlydiagnosed	sleep"
tauruslady	Coming home with a catheter is not standard
Bobbeleh	NO.
newlydiagnosed	I still had some leakage problems after.
newlydiagnosed	But they are gone now.
newlydiagnosed	XX
Bobbeleh	My urgency incontinence cleared up post op
Bobbeleh	And so did my back pain.
fritzi64	I'm going to remove the moderation in just a moment
Bobbeleh	okay
newlydiagnosed	I found heat felt better on my back, but ice on my stomach.
fritzi64	so everyone can enjoy some chatting
newlydiagnosed	just an fyi
fritzi64	Again, thank you to all of our panelists for being here with us tonight
newlydiagnosed	resting is the most important part.
kimmywoman	My nightly trips to the bathroom stopped. The fibroid was pressing on my bladder
newlydiagnosed	your welcome.
tauruslady	Fritzi you are most welcome
Bobbeleh	I apparently had adhesions -- uterus to bladder
fritzi64	And for those of you still waiting for your surgeries, we have a pre-op chat scheduled for a week from tonight
Bobbeleh	and my fibroid was posterior
tauruslady	Thanks for being here Debbie, Kimmywoman, Newlydiagnosed and Bobbeleh
fritzi64	to really focus on preparing for the hysterectomy and what to expect in recovery
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.
Bobbeleh	Your welcome -- our pleasure
debbiedavinci	Sure thing, thanks for having me.
Isavril	that is good to know
Isavril	thanks I will check that out next week
chipndale	Being a woman is soo difficult sometimes...agreed....
marleemagoo	I had total - uterus and cervix removed and was back to work at 3 weeks
fritzi64	The moderation is off :)
kimmywoman	Thanks Debboe
Bobbeleh	I could have gone back... but I didn't
newlydiagnosed	Thanks all.
kimmywoman	Sorry Debbie
Bobbeleh	Thanks Debbie, Fritzi, Taurus
fritzi64	and we'll stay open for about 15 more minutes for chit-chat.
Bobbeleh	Great

newlydiagnosed	Any other questions?
Bobbeleh	I was actually in hospital 2 days.
marleemagoo	how long ago was your surgery?
Bobbeleh	Mine was in 9/09 -- eight months ago
kimmywoman	10 weeks for me
tauruslady	18 months for me
newlydiagnosed	January 15, 2010
Bobbeleh	I hope they learned enuf
debbiedavinci	Thanks ladies, and "see" you next month!
newlydiagnosed	I'm going to log out for now.
kimmywoman	I learn more each time
newlydiagnosed	Have a great night! :)
Bobbeleh	Nite newly
marleemagoo	I have told everyone I know about how great daVinci was for me
Bobbeleh	I'll be here a while.
Bobbeleh	I'm so glad I had it
fritzi64	I had a vaginal hysterectomy, although my hospital has the da Vinci equipment.
fritzi64	At that time, they were saving the da Vinci for the greatest-need cases
kimmywoman	I am really happy with the surgery... I sleep through the night, no pain with intercourse...heaven
Bobbeleh	Apparently, if the cervix is being taken, it's vaginal whether you want that or not.
Bobbeleh	Intercourse? What's that? LOL
marleemagoo	that is how it was for me bobbeleh
Bobbeleh	My orgasms OTOH are just fine.
kimmywoman	Hang in there!! You never know when you will meet a wonderful one
Bobbeleh	I wondered why I felt so beat up down there... now I know.
Bobbeleh	I thought maybe the doc had parked her instruments there or something.
marleemagoo	I didn't have any vaginal pain, but my doctor cut my junk into several pieces to get it out
Bobbeleh	My "wonderful one" is currently under the bed.
fritzi64	With my vaginal hysterectomy, I had no external incisions.
Bobbeleh	They have too... they are really small incisions.
fritzi64	But there were lots and lots of incisions and stitches internally
fritzi64	and I still had lots of healing to do
marleemagoo	I still have my family convinced I can't vaccuum :)
kimmywoman	good woman... hope it lasts a long time!
kimmywoman	My DH was not good about vacuuming
marleemagoo	of course they don't do it "my way" but they are doing it so I can't complain too much
kimmywoman	I know, I had to keep my mouth shut when he actually did it.. I was just thankful it was getting done!
fritzi64	one of the biggest lessons I learned during my recovery was that my way wasn't the only way
fritzi64	and "good enough" is, well, good enough!
kimmywoman	Too true
Bobbeleh	I'm trying to convince the dog to help with the housework. It isn't working.
marleemagoo	amen fritzi!
kimmywoman	Dogs just do not get it
Bobbeleh	I had a hard time convincing my doc to let me back to the gym
Bobbeleh	Actually, dogs live in the moment... we could learn from them
kimmywoman	Mine are all sleeping around me...
Bobbeleh	I had to teach mine to "spoon"

Bobbeleh	I get more bed space that way.
marleemagoo	mine are both snoring on the floor next to me
Bobbeleh	I love the sound of dog snores
Bobbeleh	Very comforting.
kimmywoman	They were certainly a comfort during recovery
Bobbeleh	Indeed they are
marleemagoo	mine couldn't figure out why mama was home all day long with them
Bobbeleh	Ah...
marleemagoo	they just kept looking at me
Bobbeleh	I work from home anyway.
kimmywoman	I could whine all I liked and they didn't care...they just listened
Bobbeleh	Awwwww
tauruslady	okay ladies, it has been fun. I need to run through the boards and check up with my DH.
Bobbeleh	That's why we have dogs, right?
tauruslady	Night everyone
kimmywoman	Yep
Bobbeleh	Nite Taurus lady
marleemagoo	ty taurus
kimmywoman	Night everyone..
marleemagoo	have a good night
ren10	Goodnight, everyone!
Bobbeleh	Nite ren
fritzi64	okay, I'm going to be closing the chatroom
marleemagoo	goodnight all
Bobbeleh	Nite Fritzi
marleemagoo	thank you all again
fritzi64	so if you get a message that you've been kicked out, it's nothing personal :)
marleemagoo	haha
fritzi64	thanks for being here, magoo

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