




A Roundtable Discussion: Exploring Hysterectomy Options




November 16, 2010

Panelist: zenyatta5, da Vinci representative Debbie

fritzi64	Hi GymDoll
GymDoll	Hi!
Kathy	Hi GymDoll !
Kathy	Gig em!
GymDoll	Hi Kathy .
fritzi64	We have a few minutes before we get started, so if you need to go grab some snacks, now's a good time to do it :)
GymDoll	haha...Whoop!
Kathy	:)
fritzi64	is this a secret handshake you two are doing?
Kathy	i figured that would be appropriate -
GymDoll	It's an "Aggie" thing Fritzi!
Kathy	she is from the land of the Aggies
fritzi64	oh, okay
Kathy	and my family tends to be Aggie
GymDoll	are you from here Kathy?
Kathy	if not a true alumni - an aggie in heart
fritzi64	I'm from the Great Lakes area, which explains why I didn't get it ;)
Kathy	I'm not - I grad from texas state
fritzi64	Hi sunshinedayz
Kathy	it was southwest tex state u back in those days
sunshinedayz	Hi there
fritzi64	Hi Linda10
Kathy	but my other family members are Aggies
Kathy	Hi sunshinedayz
Kathy	Hi Linda
GymDoll	I'm not a true Aggie either, they just pay my bills!
Kathy	We love the Aggies
Linda10	Hi everybody
Kathy	I usually have a family member at each game
GymDoll	In the two years I've lived here, I've only been to one game.
GymDoll	Must do better next season.
Kathy	yes
Kathy	how is everyone tonight?
GymDoll	Hi everyone!
GymDoll	Doing well. Looking forward to this chat quite a lot.
Kathy	Hi Sashak9!
fritzi64	We have a few more members working their way into the room, so we'll take a few minutes before we officially start.
fritzi64	Hi Sashak9
fritzi64	How is everyone's weather today?
GymDoll	Beautiful day.
fritzi64	Hi quiltz1
Kathy	hi Quiltz1
Sashak9	Hi, there. Working on a loaner laptop, which made things a little trickier to log in (doesn't have my info stored)
Kathy	Hi Csd4747
sunshinedayz	just started raining here in NJ
fritzi64	Hi Csd4747
quiltz1	HI
fritzi64	We had a beautiful sunny day in the 40's here
fritzi64	I was hoping for snow, but I don't think that's going to happen soon
Kathy	Hi BarbF
fritzi64	Hi BarbF
BarbF	Hello

fritzi64	We'll start in a couple minutes, so everyone feel free to go grab your snacks.
Kathy	it was sunny today and in the 60s
fritzi64	If you want to change your font color, you can do that by clicking on the palette icon above the typing box (hint: yellow doesn't work so well)
Kathy	good
fritzi64	Hi SCARED45
SCARED45	hello
Kathy	Hi SCARED45
GymDoll	had to pick maroon, Kathy
Kathy	gig em
Kathy	;)
SCARED45	i had 2 surey
fritzi64	Hi Minxy58
fritzi64	Let's go ahead and get started
SCARED45	im still being packes
Kathy	Hi Minxy58
SCARED45	pack
Minxy58	Hi everyone!
fritzi64	We'll continue to have some women show up
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 daVinci Hysterectomy as a hysterectomy option.
fritzi64	We have a daVinci representative in the discussion with us tonight.
fritzi64	In the first part of our program, Debbie will provide you with information about how the da Vinci system works.
fritzi64	You will also hear from a member of HysterSisters who faced a hysterectomy and chose the da Vinci option.
fritzi64	You'll learn about her experience with the da Vinci hysterectomy.
fritzi64	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	Hi tink70
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	HysterSisters creator and CEO, Kathy, will be interviewing our panelists about the daVinci hysterectomy.
fritzi64	The program will begin with a presentation about the da Vinci system—how it works, the general benefits, and the specific benefits in regards to various medical conditions that can lead to a hysterectomy.
fritzi64	After the presentation, we will ask our member panelist, zenyatta5, to introduce herself and share her experiences with the da Vinci hysterectomy.
fritzi64	The final segment of our program this evening will be a question and answer session. You will have an opportunity to ask questions of Debbie and zenyatta5.
fritzi64	Also, Kathy and I may step in from time to time to share what we have read from other da Vinci patients in our forums.
fritzi64	I will also be asking a few questions as we proceed.
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	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. Kathy, it's all yours!
Kathy	Debbie, can you tell us about your role with daVinci?
debbiedavinci	I work in the marketing dept at Intuitive Surgical and I help to educate surgeons on using this technology.**
Kathy	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	
debbiedavinci	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.
debbiedavinci	
debbiedavinci	**
Kathy	What does it mean that there is a "robot" involved?
debbiedavinci	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.**
Kathy	Debbie, what are some of the general benefits of da Vinci surgery as opposed to other hysterectomy options?
debbiedavinci	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. These EndoWrist instruments are even more flexible than the human wrist – which allows the surgeon to handle difficulties with the patient's anatomy.
debbiedavinci	
debbiedavinci	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.

debbiedavinci

Surgical Approaches to Gynecologic Conditions

The diagram shows three female figures illustrating different surgical approaches. The first figure on the left shows a vertical incision on the abdomen, labeled 'Open (abdominal) surgery'. The second figure in the middle shows a smaller incision, labeled 'da Vinci® Hysterectomy (robot-assisted surgery)'. The third figure on the right shows three small incisions, labeled 'Lap'.

debbiedavinci

Return to normal activities

For women ... post-hysterectomy

Return to Normal Activities (days)

Surgical Approach	Return to Normal Activities (days)	Sample Size (n)
da Vinci	24.1	40
Open	52	40
Lap	31.6	30

debbiedavinci	**
Kathy	Debbie, our panelist 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.
Kathy	First, we'd like to find out a bit more about why our members are having their hysterectomies.
Kathy	(((HysterSisters))), could you share with us the reason for your hysterectomy?
Linda10	Mennorrhagia due to fibroids resulting in microcytic anemia
Minxy58	fibroids and bleeding
quiltz1	fibroids, lengthy bleeding, back pain
GymDoll	10 years of endometriosis, fibroids, ovarian cysts, and honestly, most importantly, an inability to be intimate with my boyfriend
Csdc4747	endometrial cancer
fritzi64	Anyone else?
tink70	I had a Davinci partial hysterectomy in December. I kept one ovary and may. I had fibroids, sever endometrisis and sever cramping. I may now have endometriosis back in my remaining ovary and have to have surgery again.
Kathy	Debbie, what are the benefits specific to women having a hysterectomy for

	gynecological cancer?
sunshinedayz	Fibroids and ovarian cysts, cervical prolapse and uterus 3x normal size - and terrible, debilitating periods
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. **
Kathy	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. **
Kathy	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. **
Kathy	Debbie, what are the benefits specific to women having a hysterectomy for heavy bleeding?
debbiedavinci	Same benefits. Patients with heavy bleeding are candidates for a da Vinci hysterectomy.
Kathy	Debbie, what are the benefits specific to women having a hysterectomy for endometriosis?
debbiedavinci	Patients with endometriosis are candidates for a da Vinci hysterectomy.
fritzi64	Hi ExploreMore
debbiedavinci	For patients with endometriosis, good vision of the anatomy, and the ability to reach all the areas which contain endometriosis are very important.
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.
Kathy	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. **
Kathy	First, let's meet our member panelist for this evening. zenyatta5, can you tell us a little about yourselves?
zenyatta5	I am a speech therapist who has four dogs. I love dogs, horses and horse raing. I live with my mom who has helped me with this process. **
Kathy	What brought you to the hysterectomy experience?
zenyatta5	I had sever endometriosis that was not responding to any medical treatment so was sent to a surgeon**
Kathy	Why did you choose the da Vinci hysterectomy?
zenyatta5	I chose the DaVinci because my surgeon recommended it for less recovery time and easier to get all the endometriosis without damaging my other organs **
fritzi64	Hi jennee
Kathy	How important was it to you to seek a second opinion in making your decision about hysterectomy type?How important was it to you to seek a second opinion in making your decision about hysterectomy type?
zenyatta5	I think it was absolutely vital to get a second and even a third opinion before doing it to make sure that I totally understood what the risks and benefits were **
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?

jennee	hello :) i have been trying to log in and install plugins etc.. and was hoping i didnt miss out!
fritzi64	I'm glad you made it :)
Linda10	I did
GymDoll	I have had probably about 5 opinions, each time hoping hysterectomy was not the answer. It was...4 out of 5 times.
quiltz1	I haven't
jennee	does coming here count as second opinions?
Minxy58	I've had a 2nd and scheduling a 3rd opinion
ExploreMore	I think I was in Java-land with jennee - I didn't mean to be late, either! I'm glad I finally made it in. =)
fritzi64	We know from a voluntary poll on Hystersisters that fewer than half our members have gotten a second opinion.
tink70	I did not seek a second opinion. I had seen my family doc and two ER docs for the pain and after my gyn/ob finally diagnosed me I was so ready to just get cured.
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. But we deserve to explore other options. It is not a backhand to our doctors.
ExploreMore	I've been to 2 gynecologists, but they're in the same practice. That doesn't really count as a 2nd opinion, does it?
jennee	tink - i agree.. i asked for mine and my doc said no. i convinced him
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.
fritzi64	After the Roundtable, we'd like to encourage you to visit www.givemeasecond.com .
Kathy	Zenyatta5, what were your concerns about the da Vinci hysterectomy?
zenyatta5	My concerns were that it would have to be converted to a abdominal surgery. I also was scared because of complex medical complications and medicine allergies
sunshinedayz	My gyno referred me to a davinci surgeon because he is so impressed by it. That surgeon is going to perform the surgery this Friday -ends up it's the same surgeon that did it for a friend of mine 2 yrs ago (davinci)
Kathy	Debbie, are there any situations where a dVH is not the best option for someone?
quiltz1	I had a endo biopsy today and my doc is recommending daVinci
ExploreMore	My gyn sent me to the other guy because she wasn't comfortable with my fibroids. He's the daVinci guru in their group, so she passed me along.
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.**
Kathy	Zenyatta5, we'd like to ask about your surgery and recovery. How did everything go?
zenyatta5	My surgery went very well but this was major surgery which required increased time due to complications from other medical conditions. I am finally doing much better but it took time**
Kathy	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.
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.
Kathy	Could you provide any statistics on how often that happens in laparoscopic hysterectomy?
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 9% for laparoscopic hysterectomy.

Kathy	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%. **
fritzi64	(((HysterSisters))), what questions do you have about who is and is not a candidate for a daVinci hysterectomy?
tink70	My experience with DaVinci hysterectomy went very smoothly. I was very pleased with the surgeon and the overall experience.
GymDoll	I'm glad Debbie mentioned adhesions. I have bowel adhesions (known from a previous surgery). I am worried about how these will affect my davinci hysterectomy.
GymDoll	I do not know the severity of them.
Kathy	Debbie, what are the most common concerns and questions that women have about the da Vinci Hysterectomy?
debbiedavinci	Bowel adhesions can be handled during the da Vinci hysterectomy
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
Kathy	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.
Kathy	Zenyatta5, what advice do you have for other women considering a da Vinci hysterectomy?
zenyatta5	My advice is to get all the information you need. If you don't feel comfortable with your doctor you will have problems after surgery. It is really vital to be comfortable with your decision and the doctor you use.
zenyatta5	**
Kathy	Debbie, let's say that someone who's here tonight wants to learn more about whether a da Vinci hysterectomy 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	Kathy, since you know your way around here pretty well ;) , could you share with 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?
Kathy	There are numerous things that can help you understand all your options or start you in the right direction.
Kathy	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.
Kathy	Review the Pre-Op Checkpoints that give you definitions and information on all varieties of hysterectomies and preparation for them.
Kathy	Of course there are links to the daVinci site from HysterSisters.
Kathy	For the brave of heart you can watch videos of various surgeries.
fritzi64	(((HysterSisters))), what questions do you have?
fritzi64	The rest of our program is time for you to ask questions about the da Vinci hysterectomy.
fritzi64	Remember, 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
BarbF	I am facing a full hysterectomy and am interetsed in DaVinci. I have enlarged uterus and ovaries with large cysts, fibroids and a tipped uterus, not sure if I am a candidate and it was not given as an option. I am now

	(painfully!) awaiting a 2nd opinion. I am happy to have the opportunity to learn more about this surgery.
jennee	is davinci available everywhere? or just special hospitals/centers
debbiedavinci	da Vinci is available at hospitals with a da Vinci system
tink70	the da Vinci surgery homepage was very helpful to me
tink70	Can daVinci be used for removal of a remaining ovary after partial hysterectomy?
debbiedavinci	yes
Linda10	Do you have much pain/discomfort vaginally (I have not had a vaginal birth)?
zenyatta5	I really had minimal pain that was controlled very easily. It really didn't hurt much at all**
quiltz1	I have a latex allergy. Is this system equipped without latex?
debbiedavinci	it depends - the uterus is sometimes removed through the vagina. but most patients do not have much pain vaginally.
sunshinedayz	my dr. said that 90% of his patients leave the hospital within 5 hrs of having davinci - is that true?
zenyatta5	Make sure they know about latex allergy. I also have one and they were able to make sure there was no latex anywhere on machine and everyone made sure not to use latex**
ExploreMore	In terms of recovery time and what to expect during recover, what can I expect? How would the da Vinci hysterectomy recovery differ from a myomectomy with daVinci?
GymDoll	For a "normal" davinci procedure, what is the typical hospital stay and back to work time?
debbiedavinci	For a "typical" da vinci hysterectomy, length of stay is 1 day
tink70	I had only minimal pain as well. In fact the worst pain I experienced was my neck from the position during surgery, intubation.
zenyatta5	I Had surgery on one day and then was sent home. It took me about two and half weks before I returned to work**
debbiedavinci	most patients are back to their daily activities within a few days
fritzi64	ExploreMore, the recovery time can vary quite a bit. Having an organ removed affects your entire body, and it's hard to know how any one person will respond to that.
tink70	I was back to work, babysitting, within 2 weeks.
tink70	I went home from hospital on the day of my surgery.
debbiedavinci	such as going to their children's graduation, etc.
Linda10	I have a job that involves lifting. How many weeks after can you usually do normal lifting again?
Kathy	lifting is not something that should be done for a few weeks after surgery
debbiedavinci	Correct, this recuperation time varies person from person. You must take it easy right after the surgery
Kathy	generally they say not to lift anything heavier than a gallon of milk for 2 weeks
fritzi64	Many women find it best to request the maximum amount of time off from work (6-8 weeks)
zenyatta5	It depends on your doctor. Mine didn't release me for several weeks after and then restricted me again due to complications **
Kathy	even though the incisions are tiny - an organ has been removed and you have healing to do on the inside even if you feel good
fritzi64	and then if they're doing great, they can return earlier --but they have plans ready just in case they need a bit more time to heal
tink70	Linda, my best advice is to start slowly lifting only after your surgeon oks it.
Kathy	so you still need to take it easy as you get back to typical activities
sunshinedayz	while my dr. is confident I'll go home the same day as the surgery, he wants me to take it easy and take the full 6 wks off from work
ExploreMore	Are there things that you can do to help prepare your body before the surgery?
fritzi64	ExploreMore, no matter what type of hysterectomy you have, most women find it helpful to try to eat healthy and get the right amount of sleep.
zenyatta5	Make sure that you are healthy and eating the right foods. Also for me the day before I ate very lightly and that really helped me to be more comfortable**
Linda10	What is the most common complication seen with the daVinci?

tink70	I found regular chiropractic adjustments before and gentle adjustments after provided an easier path to recovery.
debbiedavinci	common complications are similar to those related to surgery
zenyatta5	I don't know the most common one but my complication was trapped air and also having severe abdominal pain weeks later due to me pushing it. I overdid it and paid the price with hospitalization**
fritzi64	I want to point out that we will also be having a pre-op chat Thursday night, right here, for women preparing for all hysterectomy types
fritzi64	and you're welcome to participate in that chat, too!
ExploreMore	In terms of scheduling surgery and menses, is there a "better" time to schedule the process? Right after your period finishes? During your period (this just seems like it'd be a nasty mess)? Somewhere in the middle of your cycle?
Linda10	Is the trapped air due to co2 used or gas pain?
debbiedavinci	trapped air is due to co2
fritzi64	Explore, we've had women have their surgeries at all times of the month. Some women have constant bleeding, so there's no way around it for them. And the hospitals know just how to handle the mess, so you don't have to worry.
BarbF	How long is the surgery?
fritzi64	Hi wlevan
tink70	I had neck pain, from surgery positioning and some breathing issues during post-op recovery. The breathing we think, was related to a recent chest cold I'd had in the weeks before the surgery. So do everything you can to stay healthy. Eat healthy, sleep adequately, exercise, get your flu shot, etc.
zenyatta5	It depends on the patient and how complicated the surgeon is. **
debbiedavinci	other intraoperative complications include: left ureteral injury, small bowel enterotomy, vaginal laceration
debbiedavinci	these are all complications related to a hysterectomy
wlevan	hi
Linda10	How long does it usually take to resolve?
debbiedavinci	they can occur with open surgery and laparoscopy
zenyatta5	It took me one week to resolve the issues but I was lucky that I recovered so quickly**
sunshinedayz	my dr said the trapped air is worse in abdominal surgery as opposed to davinci - also said the bowel prep beforehand helps as well
jennee	has anyone here had a hysterectomy while already having illnesses? i have lung issues and my doc was leary to give me the surgery...
Kathy	as for complications - from a HysterSisters point of view we don't see any complication particular to the daVinci hyst. Complications of all types are universal to the hysterectomy - not based on type of hyst
tink70	Would a surgeon be able to use the same incision sites or have to make new ones. I had a partial DeVinci hysterectomy in December and may need my remaining ovary removed soon.
zenyatta5	I had a mild cold but my doc checked me out thoroughly and I had no problems**
sunshinedayz	no, but I'm heavy and was nervous about that - dr said davinci was doable on heavier set women
Kathy	daVinci is a good option for larger women
sunshinedayz	do you know why that is?
BarbF	How long has the daVinci surgery been used?
debbiedavinci	be sure to do your research on the websites i provided above to understand the pros and cons of the procedure, and also talk to your surgeon.
debbiedavinci	da vinci surgery was approved for GYN use in 2005.
zenyatta5	Unfortunately I need to leave due to my poor dog having some illness issues tonight. Ask questions in the forums and you will get tons of answers from all of the other ladies here. It is a great support system. **
Kathy	thank you zenyatte5
GymDoll	thank you all so much!
BarbF	Thanks!
Kathy	thanks!
Linda10	Thank you for your responses!
quiltz1	Are the fibroids and large uterus removed through the small openings??
zenyatta5	You are welcome. Have a great night!!**

tink70	Thanks to all. This website is wonderful. It's a place that makes me feel normal.
Kathy	night
sunshinedayz	thank you and good luck to everyone
Minxy58	thanks for sharing!
BarbF	Me too (and little else feels normal at the moment - lol). Thank you everyone and good night!
Kathy	what other questions do you have for Debbie?
sunshinedayz	quiltz-my dr is removing via vagina - enlarged as well
Kathy	sometimes the questions go by so quickly its hard to get them all
ExploreMore	I'm trying to wrap my head around how this process works. I know that there will be 5 incisions and pieces and parts will be removed, but I'd like more info on the "how" part of the process.
Kathy	exploremore - the best thing to do is watch videos in our video section
tink70	Does Debbie know if the surgeon can use the same incision sites from a prior DaVinci surgery ever, or do they typically have to make new incisions?
Kathy	and read on the davinci website to understand "how"
debbiedavinci	they may be able to use the old incisions, ask your doctor
tink70	Thanks :)
debbiedavinci	doctors usually try to accommodate these requests
Kathy	i've found the davinci docs to be really brilliant people - they don't have to learn new methods of surgery but those that do - do it for the sake of the patients
Kathy	i think they are extra caring and try to go the extra distance FOR the patient
Kathy	so ask
tink70	I don't want my abdomen to look like a dot to dot page. Although I have to say the 5 tiny red lines are much better than one large, long line would be.
Kathy	the incisions are so small - they tend to disappear in little time
tink70	Mine have already diminished since December.
Kathy	but going back on top of older incisions is a good request
tink70	Thanks I will definitely ask about using the same incision sites.
Linda10	Do you get "swelly belly" with a daVinci?
tink70	Some swelly belly but not severe and only lasted a few days.
Kathy	for lap surgeries of all kinds - surgeons do insert some gas to expand the abdomen cavity while doing the surgery. This gas does get absorbed easily - its not the same as abdominal surgery which is swollen from the damaged tissue
Kathy	different kinds of swelly belly for lap - davinci surgery
Kathy	any other questions?
quiltz1	No, thanks!
sunshinedayz	how long does it take? my dr said about 3 hrs
Kathy	remember - after this chat you can always ask questions on our forums. Our members who have had davinci hyst can answer questions for you
Kathy	typically - 3 hours is about right.
ExploreMore	I heard 3 hours for the hysterectomy and 4+ if you are getting a myomectomy or if there are difficulties.
Linda10	Thanks so much for the information!:)}
Kathy	it depends on your condition and your surgery
sunshinedayz	thanks - wish me luck friday
sunshinedayz	good night!
ExploreMore	Best of luck to you! Heal quickly!
tink70	Good luck Sunshinedayz :)
Kathy	night night
Linda10	Good luck!
Kathy	heal well - get healthy!
debbiedavinci	actually a straight forward non-cancer da vinci hysterectomy takes less than 2 hours on average
debbiedavinci	cancer cases take about 2-3 hours on average
Linda10	My doctor said 60 - 90 minutes.
debbiedavinci	that sounds about right
debbiedavinci	if it takes more than that, you have to wonder how experienced the doctor is
Kathy	its very important to select an experienced surgeon
Kathy	any more questions?

tink70	And ask about keeping your cervix. My surgeon does that whenever he can.
Kathy	our hour is almost over
Kathy	good point tink
debbiedavinci	keep your cervix is an option for non cancer cases
debbiedavinci	for cancer cases, it may not be advisable. speak with your doctor.
Kathy	yes
Linda10	My first question was how many have you done? She said hundreds. I think I read somewhere that you want the surgeon to have done at least 30??
debbiedavinci	yes, 20 is the minimum to get through the learning curve.
tink70	My surgeon also trains other surgeons on DaVinci hyster. that was comforting to me.
Kathy	that's a good question Linda. Its important to choose a surgeon with enough experience in any method - especially davinci
Kathy	excellent tink
Kathy	also ask: what is your conversion rate
Kathy	to know how often they must convert from davinci to open surgery
Kathy	the more experience, the fewer the conversions
tink70	Also if keeping on ovary or both ask what percentage of their patients have the return of any regular menstrual bleeding.
Kathy	the return of menstrual bleeding is related to the keeping of the cervix
debbiedavinci	If the uterus is removed, there is no menstrual bleeding.
tink70	oops
Kathy	if you keep your cervix - chances are you will have menstrual bleeding
debbiedavinci	i don't think it's related to the cervix....
ExploreMore	But it will be much lighter?
Kathy	yes
Kathy	but be sure and ask
Kathy	we have many members who keep cervix and had no idea they would still have monthly periods
tink70	Ok..my doc kept my cervix but did something (ablation?) to stop bleeding.
Kathy	yes
Kathy	cauterizing, ablation, etc
Kathy	usually stops that
ExploreMore	But with the uterus gone, there is no need for oral contraceptives, correct? I hadn't even gotten this far in the thought process...
tink70	I have not had any bleeding since Dec. and my surgeon's rate is less than 1 percent.
Kathy	talk to your doctor. If you keep your cervix - and keep ovaries - you need to make sure that the doctor is aware so make sure your eggs can not implant in what is left of uterus (as cervix is bottom part of uterus)
debbiedavinci	I unfortunately have to jump off folks!
Kathy	talk to your doctor
Kathy	night night debbie!
debbiedavinci	Thanks for having me!
ExploreMore	He's intending to leave both ovaries and the cervix. If I go this route.
Linda10	Thanks!
Kathy	thank you!
ExploreMore	Thank you, Debbie!
tink70	thanks Debbie and Kathie and all my hyster sisters :)
Kathy	you are welcome tink
ExploreMore	Lots more research to do...
Kathy	we need to close the chatroom - if you have more questions - please ask on the forums - and read through the davinci websites for more information
Sashak9	Thanks, everyone, and good night!
ExploreMore	Thank you, Kathy!
ExploreMore	Night all!
Linda10	Thank you for doing this roundtable!
Kathy	night night
Kathy	you are welcome