

# Facing Hysterectomy?

Learn why **da Vinci® Surgery**  
may be your best treatment option  
for a benign gynecologic condition



*da Vinci* Surgery™

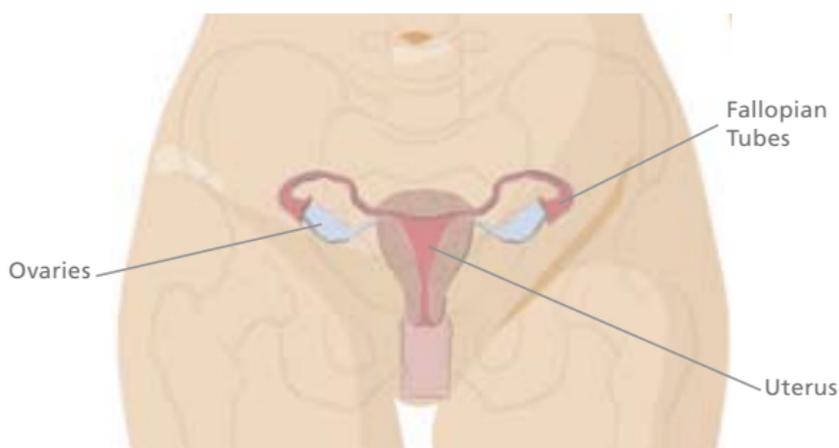
## The Condition(s):

Chronic Pain, Heavy Bleeding, Fibroids, Endometriosis and/or Prolapse

A wide variety of benign (non-cancerous) conditions can affect a woman's reproductive system, which consists of the uterus, the vagina, ovaries and fallopian tubes. Most of these conditions affect the uterus, which is the hollow, muscular organ that holds a baby as it grows inside a pregnant woman.

Common types of gynecologic conditions like fibroids (non-cancerous growths in the uterine wall), endometriosis (non-cancerous growths of the uterine lining) or prolapse (falling or slipping of the uterus) can cause chronic pain and heavy bleeding, as well as other disabling symptoms.

Women who experience these symptoms are often treated with hysterectomy - the surgical removal of the uterus. In fact, this procedure is the second most common surgical procedure for women in the United States, and an estimated one third of all U.S. women will have a hysterectomy by age 60.<sup>1</sup>



Your doctor is one of a growing number of surgeons offering *da Vinci* Surgery for benign gynecologic conditions.

For more information about *da Vinci* Hysterectomy and to find a *da Vinci* Surgeon near you, visit:  
[www.daVinciHysterectomy.com](http://www.daVinciHysterectomy.com)

## The Treatment:

### Hysterectomy

Your doctor might recommend a hysterectomy to treat your condition. Hysterectomy can sometimes be performed through the vagina. However, when the uterus is large or if you have internal scarring from prior surgery or other conditions, abdominal hysterectomy is usually performed.

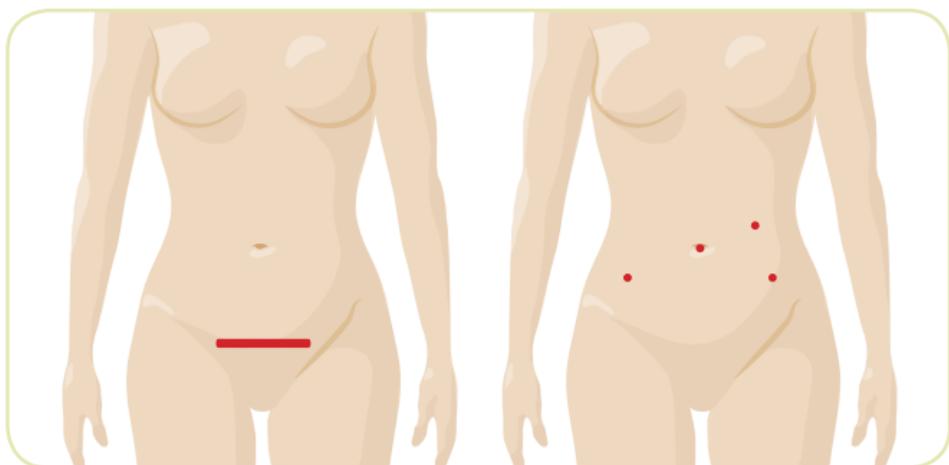
Traditionally, abdominal hysterectomies are performed with open surgery, which requires a wide incision below the navel. This procedure can be painful, involving heavy pain medications, risk of infection and significant blood loss. After surgery, a long recovery (often 6 weeks) is necessary. In addition, many patients are not happy with the scar left by the incision.



\*In some cases, a fifth small incision may be required.

While clinical studies support the effectiveness of the *da Vinci*<sup>®</sup> System when used in minimally invasive surgery, the *da Vinci* Surgical System may not be appropriate for every individual. Always ask your doctor about all risks and benefits. © 2008 Intuitive Surgical. All rights reserved. *Intuitive, Intuitive Surgical, da Vinci, da Vinci S and EndoWrist* are trademarks of Intuitive Surgical. PN 871969 Rev. A 4/08

While hysterectomy is a relatively safe procedure, it may not be appropriate or necessary for all individuals or conditions. Alternative treatments that preserve the uterus may be available. For example, *da Vinci* Myomectomy may be an option for women with fibroids who want to preserve their fertility and/or uterus. Always ask your doctor about all treatment options, as well as their risks and benefits.



Open Surgery  
Incision

*da Vinci*  
Hysterectomy  
Incisions\*



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## *da Vinci* Hysterectomy: A Less Invasive Surgical Procedure

If your doctor recommends hysterectomy, you may be a candidate for an innovative, less invasive surgical procedure called *da Vinci* Hysterectomy. This procedure uses a state-of-the-art surgical system designed to help your doctor perform the most precise and least invasive hysterectomy available today.

For most women, *da Vinci* Hysterectomy offers numerous potential benefits over traditional surgical approaches, including:

- › Significantly less pain
- › Less blood loss and need for transfusion
- › Less risk of infection
- › Shorter hospital stay
- › Quicker recovery and return to normal activities
- › Small incisions for minimal scarring
- › Better outcomes and patient satisfaction, in many cases

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



## The Enabling Technology: *da Vinci* Surgical System

The *da Vinci* Surgical System is designed to provide surgeons with enhanced capabilities, including high-definition 3D vision and a magnified view. Your doctor controls the *da Vinci* System, which translates his or her hand movements into smaller, more precise movements of tiny instruments inside your body. Though it is often called a “robot,” *da Vinci* cannot act on its own: Instead, the surgery is performed entirely by your doctor.



Together, *da Vinci* technology allows your doctor to perform complex procedures through just a few tiny openings. As a result, you may be able to get back to life faster without the usual recovery following major surgery.

The *da Vinci* System has been used successfully worldwide in hundreds of thousands of procedures to date.