

Robotic Assisted Surgery in Paediatric Urology

Who is this information for?

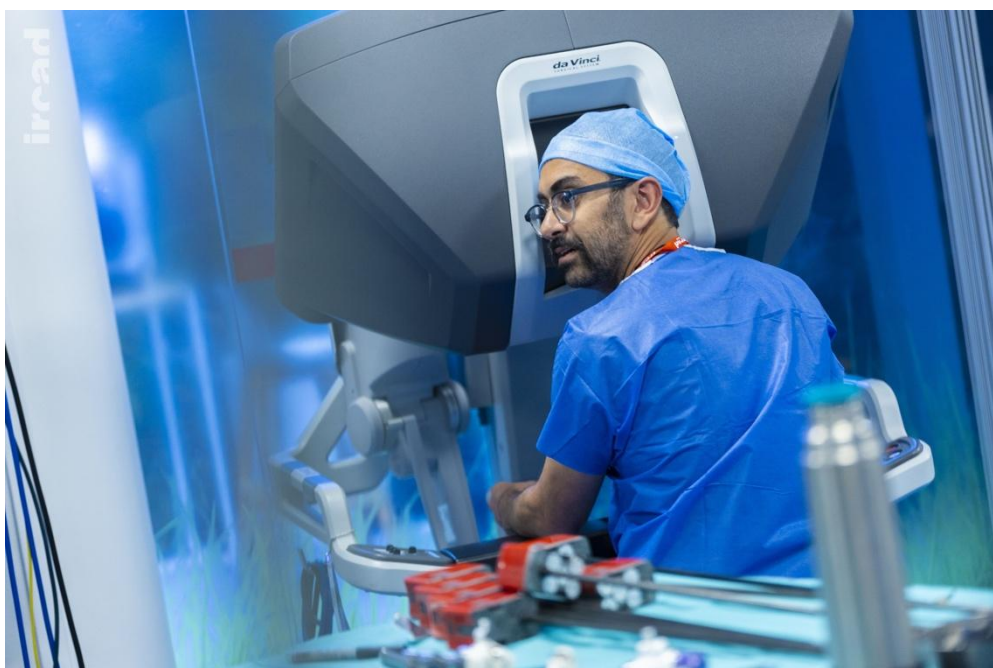
This document is for patients, families and carers. It provides information about Paediatric Robotic surgery that has been approved by the Technology/Clinical Practice Committee (an evidence-based decision-making committee) at Monash Health. It will provide you with the reasons for the procedure and the known benefits and risks of the procedure, **so that you can make an informed decision on whether you would like to go ahead with the procedure.**

Your Surgeon has recommended Robotic Surgery to treat your child's surgical condition

What is Robotic Surgery?

Robot-assisted surgery provides a less-invasive surgical option for children by using the latest technology to access difficult areas during surgery. It is important to know that the robotic platform used at Monash Health (Da Vinci Xi) is always controlled by the surgeon, and does not operate on its own.

This type of surgery uses robotic arms that move with more precision and flexibility than the human hand. The surgeon has a better view of the operation and can move more accurately, helping to improve surgical outcomes. The surgeons at Monash Children's Hospital who use the robot are highly trained and experienced in the surgical steps of the operation, and have completed special training with this technology.



What does the procedure involve?

During robot-assisted surgery, the surgeon sits at a control station connected to the robotic system and a video screen. The surgeon controls three or four robotic arms, which are positioned next to the patient. These arms have tiny surgical tools attached to them.

One arm has a high-definition, 3D camera that provides a magnified image of the surgical area, up to 10 times larger than normal. These images help the surgeon see the organs and tissues clearly. The video feed is displayed in 3D, giving a detailed view that helps to make sure the surgery is done safely and accurately.

What are the benefits of Robotic Surgery?

As an alternative option to traditional open surgery for children, robot-assisted surgery offers patients:

- Smaller cuts (incisions)
- Less bleeding during surgery
- Lower chance of infection
- Less pain after surgery
- Faster recovery time
- Quicker return of normal bowel function (in abdominal surgery)
- Shorter stay in the hospital

What are the alternatives to Robotic Surgery?

Your surgeon will talk with you and your child to decide if robot-assisted surgery is the right choice for your child's specific situation. The exact steps of the robotic surgery will differ depending on what condition is being treated.

Open surgery or laparoscopic surgery are other approaches that might be suitable for your child's procedure. Your surgeon will explain the benefits and risks of these different approaches, considering your child's health and particular needs.

What if I decide not to have the procedure?

If you decide that robotic surgery is not your preference an alternative surgical plan will be discussed and confirmed.

What complications can happen?

- The possible complications depend on the type of surgery being done, rather than how it is performed (for example, whether it is robotic, laparoscopic or open surgery). Many complications have a reduced risk when the robot is used.
- Overall, robotic surgery has been extensively used in children around the world, and is safe.

How soon will I recover?

This is largely dependent on the type of procedure your child requires, but generally speaking the recovery following robotic surgery is more straight forward than open surgery,

Summary

If robot-assisted surgery is right for your child, their care team will discuss the details of what this would involve, including what can be expected before, during and after the procedure.

Because the robot can be used for a wide range of surgeries, the details will vary for each procedure. Your surgeon and care team will make sure you and your family understand the specifics of the procedure your child needs, feel comfortable with the approach and have no unanswered questions.

Important Information

If your child has any bleeding, pain or complications as a result of this procedure you should present to Monash Children's Hospital.

All questions should be directed to your treating team.

For information



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Call **131 450** for a National Interpreter

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