

First Robotic Surgery For India

In a rare cancer surgery, doctors at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) operated on a 50-year-old patient with assistance from a robot. P.N. Dogra, head of the department of urology, performed the robot-assisted anterior pelvic exenteration on a woman suffering from cancer of the urethra and urinary bladder.

“In this operation the urinary bladder, uterus, fallopian tubes, ovaries, anterior vaginal wall, urethra and pelvic lymph nodes were removed,” Y.K. Gupta, a senior professor and chief spokesman of AIIMS, said. “This was done for the first time in the country. It was a challenging surgery,” Gupta claimed.

Gupta said the AIIMS has initiated a drive to use the robot on a greater number of patients. “Facilities and programs are being developed to do advanced robotic surgery on the prostate, urinary bladder and kidney, besides offering state-of-the-art robotic surgical technology to patients suffering from various urological diseases,” he added.

The department of urology is also developing a training program in robotic surgery, including the virtual simulation system (RoSS) for imparting this skill to future robotic surgeons.

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