Single-Incision Robotic Surgery For Gallbladder Removal

(PRNewswire) A surgical team at Beaumont Hospital in Troy has performed Michigan's first single-incision, robotic-assisted gallbladder removal surgery (laparoscopic cholecystectomy). Led by Bruce McIntosh, M.D., chief of General Surgery, the team removed the gallbladders of three local patients through robotic surgeries that required only a belly button incision of less than one inch.

The Food and Drug Administration approved the new procedure in December 2011 for the da Vinci Robotic Surgical System. "While robotic surgery and single incisions are not new, combining the two to remove the gallbladder requires special training and equipment," says Dr. McIntosh. "To be the first hospital in Michigan to offer this technically advanced surgery demonstrates Beaumont's leadership in providing patients with the latest, minimally invasive surgical options." Dr. McIntosh is one of 16 surgeons in the country who has received special training to perform the surgery.

Benefits of the new surgery can include minimal scarring, less pain, less bleeding, faster recovery and a shorter hospital stay, enhancing quality and safety and improving patient satisfaction. The surgery can be performed in less than one hour with a typical hospital stay of two hours. Unlike traditional robotic surgeries that require three to four small incisions used as access ports for the robotic arms, the new technology allows for a single incision at the belly button where instruments are placed and the diseased organ is removed.

Most people who require gallbladder removal are candidates for the robotic, single-incision surgery. About 1.2 million gallbladder removal surgeries are performed in the U.S. each year. It's estimated that 80 percent of elective gallbladder removal surgeries could be done using the single-port, robotic-assisted approach.

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