

Da Vinci Earnings Increase Despite Lawsuits

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(PRNewswire) Despite a growing number of da Vinci Surgical System lawsuits, Marketwatch said that Intuitive Surgical saw healthy fourth-quarter earnings of about \$175 million in 2012. Intuitive attributes its 16 percent earnings increase in Q4 to increased implementation and sales of the da Vinci robotic surgical system, according to Marketwatch.

The system has been the subject of lawsuits that including a March 2012 case involving a Bronx woman who died after receiving a hysterectomy via the da Vinci. According to a *Chicago Tribune* story, Intuitive has sold more than 1,500 units, with patients experiencing side effects that include burns and lacerations to organs and blood vessels. Surgeons in hospitals across the county have performed more than 250,000 hysterectomies and prostate removal surgeries with the system, according to the *Chicago Tribune* story.

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