

Robotic Surgery

Rapid Growth in Multiple Specialties

Northside Hospital's Program Ranks in Top 10 Percent in United States

Minimally invasive robotic surgery has given surgeons better tools to perform the most intricate procedures and achieve better outcomes for their patients. It's this state-of-the-art technology, combined with the experience of a highly trained medical staff, that gives Northside patients the best possible outcomes and quicker recoveries in a growing range of surgical specialties.

» No. 1 in Robotic Surgery in Georgia

At Northside Hospital, a leader in providing state-of-the-art surgical services, more surgeries are performed than at any other hospital in Georgia—more than 35,000 each year. This expertise has ranked Northside No. 1 by Atlantans for Highest Patient Safety, Outpatient Surgery and Bariatric and Plastic Surgery by the NRC Healthcare Market Guide. Northside Hospital was one of the first hospitals in Atlanta to obtain the daVinci™ Surgical Robotic System and now ranks in the top 5 percent of all robotic gynecological programs (10 percent for robotic prostatectomy programs) in the United States. The robotic surgical team at Northside has worked together for years, which brings a superior level of teamwork and skill to our program. Northside views robotic technology as having great potential for minimally invasive procedures in a growing range of specialties.

» State-of-the-Art Technology

Used for thoracic, urologic, gynecologic and other laparoscopic procedures, robotic surgery allows surgeons to manipulate robotic arms to perform procedures with greater dexterity than humanly possible. This minimally invasive technique involves making just a few small incisions for instruments and a small camera, which allows the surgeon to view a full-color, magnified, 3-D image of the surgical site.

» Unparalleled Skill and Experience

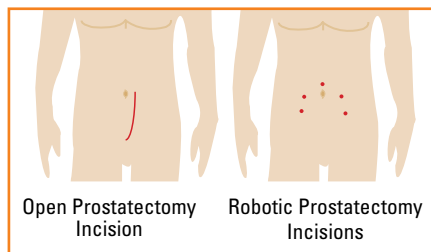
New advances in surgical technology allow Northside to stay at the forefront of the medical field.





Modeled after the human hand, these special robotic instruments provide surgeons with superior range of motion, dexterity, precision and control.

However, it's not just the state-of-the-art technology that leads to better outcomes, it's that Northside is home to many of the country's finest surgeons in healthcare today. Many of our surgeons are pioneers in laparoscopic surgery and are nationally and internationally recognized for their expertise in minimally invasive techniques. Combined with the robotic surgery skill and experience of the operating room nurses and surgical technologists, this level of expertise is critical in the success of using robotic technology.



» Prostate Cancer

More than 4,700 men in Georgia will be diagnosed with prostate cancer this year, making it the second most common form of cancer in American men. (Skin cancer is first.) The good news

is that the death rate is going down and chances for a complete cure are greater if detected early. New technologies have made the treatment of prostate cancer more successful, enabling patients to continue having active, productive lives.

- ***Northside leads the state for treating more prostate cancer patients and ranks in the***

Advantages of Robotic Surgery

The superior motion of the robotic arms and the ability to view the surgical area through high-definition magnification enhances the surgeon's skills and provides patients with a number of benefits:

- Smaller incisions
- Less pain and scarring
- Reduced blood loss and need for transfusions
- Shorter hospital stay
- Quicker recovery
- Reduced risk of infection





top five hospitals in the Southeast and in the top 10 percent of all robotic prostatectomy programs in the United States.

Know the Symptoms

If prostate cancer is detected early enough, chances of survival increase. But early detection is the key. Talk to your doctor if you experience any of the following symptoms:

- A need to urinate frequently
- Painful or burning urination
- Difficulty starting urination or holding back urine
- Blood in urine or semen
- Frequent pain or stiffness in the lower back, hips, ribs or upper thighs
- Trouble having or keeping an erection (impotence)

Get Screened

Beginning at age 45, men should be screened annually for prostate cancer with both a prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test and a digital rectal exam (DRE). If you're at an increased risk due to family

history, begin your annual screenings at age 40.

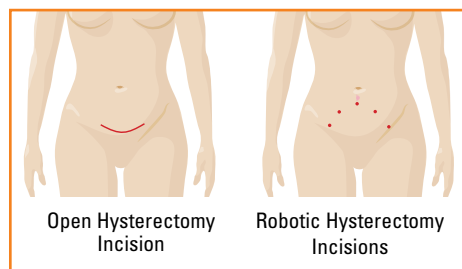
Men who are undergoing robotic prostatectomy (prostate removal) have a smaller risk of erectile dysfunction and of urinary incontinence than some other treatments, enabling them to return to normal activities more quickly.

» Gynecological Disorders

More than 25 percent of American women will eventually have a hysterectomy (removal of the uterus), making it the second most common surgery after

cesarean section. Hysterectomy can treat a variety of uterine or ovarian problems—uterine or cervical cancer, ovarian cancer, fibroids, endometriosis, heavy nonmenstrual bleeding and uterine prolapse.

- ***Northside was the first hospital in Georgia to perform a radical hysterectomy using robotic technology and ranks in the top 5 percent of all robotic gynecology programs in the United States.***



Cancer

For cancer patients at Northside, where more cases of gynecologic

cancer are diagnosed than at any other hospital in Atlanta, robotic technology means better treatment options, resulting in a quicker return to normal daily activities.

Endometriosis

More than 5.5 million U.S. women and girls suffer from endometriosis, a painful and chronic disease in which the uterine lining (the endometrium) is found outside the uterus in areas such as the ovaries,



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fallopian tubes, bladder, bowel and other locations. The misplaced tissue develops into growths or lesions, which respond to the menstrual cycle in the same way that the tissue of the uterine lining does—each month the tissue builds up, breaks down and sheds. Menstrual blood flows from the uterus and out of the body through the vagina, but the blood and tissue shed from endometrial growths have no way of leaving the body, resulting in internal bleeding, inflammation and breakdown of the blood and tissue from the lesions. This can cause pain, infertility, scar tissue formation, adhesions, bowel problems and other symptoms.

The cause of endometriosis is unknown. However, laparoscopy can show the growths' location, size and extent and help the doctor and patient make better treatment choices. With robotic laparoscopy, doctors have a better view of the abdominal cavity and can be more thorough in diagnosing endometriosis and removing lesions and adhesions.

Reproductive and Pelvic Disease

More than 120,000 cases of uterine and vaginal vault prolapse are surgically treated each year in the United States. Prolapse (or falling) of any pelvic floor organ (vagina, uterus, bladder or rectum) occurs when the connective tissues or muscles within the body cavity are weak and unable to hold the pelvis in its natural position. Women experiencing pelvic organ prolapse typically have problems with urinary incontinence, vaginal ulceration, sexual dysfunction and/or having a bowel movement.

Sacral colpopexy, a surgical procedure that can correct vaginal vault prolapse, can be performed after a hysterectomy to treat uterine prolapse and provide long-term support of the vagina. As with other robotic

procedures, robotic sacral colpopexy offers numerous potential benefits, including significantly less pain, less scarring, a shorter hospital stay and a quicker return to normal activities.

Uterine Fibroids

At least one-third of the hysterectomies performed in the United States each year are for uterine fibroids, benign tumors that grow in the uterus wall, leaving many women of child-bearing age unable to have children. While not all women with fibroids experience symptoms, some may have excessive menstrual bleeding, pelvic pain and/or infertility.

Myomectomy, a common alternative to hysterectomy, involves preserving and repairing the uterus, subsequently preserving fertility and reducing the risk of uterine rupture during pregnancy.

- ***In 2008, Northside hosted the first successful delivery of healthy twins following a robotic myomectomy (fibroid tumor removal) in the United States.***

» Kidney Disease

Ureteropelvic junction (UPJ) obstruction is a condition in which urine flow is blocked at the juncture between the kidney and the ureter, the tube that carries urine to the bladder. The condition can lead to kidney failure. Normally, the condition is surgically treated by making a large incision in the patient's back and performing an operation called a pyeloplasty to repair the blockage.

Surgery offers the best cure rates for individuals suffering from UPJ obstruction. Robotic pyeloplasty corrects the obstruction without the discomfort of the traditional open technique's large incision and permanent, disfiguring scar. In addition, suturing the



ureter is easier for the surgeon and allows for an extremely precise repair.

- **Northside surgeons performed the first robotic pyeloplasty (kidney reconstruction) in Georgia.**

» Bladder Cancer

More than 67,000 new cases of bladder cancer are diagnosed in the United States annually. In more than 90 percent of these cases, surgery is recommended. Robotic surgery incorporates the best techniques of open surgery and applies them to a robotic-assisted, minimally invasive approach.

- **Northside surgeons performed the first robotic-assisted cystectomy (bladder removal) in Georgia.**

» Lung Cancer

Minimally invasive video-assisted thoracic surgery (VATS) and lobectomy for lung cancer have been performed at Northside for many years, and Northside ranks as one of the leaders in Georgia in such procedures. With the addition of robotic techniques, Northside has expanded its expertise in minimally invasive thoracic techniques.

Robotic surgery has had a profound impact on lung and esophageal procedures, allowing surgeons to treat patients with minimal trauma to the chest wall and ribs.

- **Northside is one of only two hospitals in Georgia to offer robotic-assisted thoracic surgery.**

» General Surgery

Northside Hospital has been nationally recognized as a pioneer in laparoscopic surgery due to our innovative technology and surgical expertise. The progression to robotic laparoscopic procedures over the past five years has been a natural advancement of this minimally invasive technique. General surgery is a relatively new specialty area with indications for robotics in procedures involving the gastrointestinal tract such as esophagus, gallbladder, weight loss and other general surgery.

Northside's Robotic Surgeons

General

Charles Proctor, Jr., M.D.

Gynecology

Todd Bashuk, M.D.

William Bilek, M.D.

Angela F. Falany, M.D.

Meera S. Garcia, M.D.

Michael Hulse, M.D.

V. Leah Johnson, M.D.

Michael J. Litrel, M.D.

Ceana H. Nezhat, M.D.

Lisa M. Peacock, M.D.

Michael D. Randell, M.D.

Sujatha Reddy, M.D.

James Rewis, M.D.

LaSonya Roberts, M.D.

Gynecology—Oncology

Joseph F. Boveri, M.D.

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Gerald A. Feuer, M.D.

Stephen S. Salmieri, D.O.

Oi W. S. Yap, M.D.

Thoracic

John E. Moore, M.D.

Urology

Froylan C. Gonzalez, M.D.

Scott D. Miller, M.D.

Joel A. Rosenfeld, M.D.

Urology—Pediatric

James M. Elmore, M.D.

Robotic Surgery Available at All Northside Hospital Locations

Northside offers robotic-assisted surgery at all three of its hospitals in Atlanta, Forsyth and Cherokee. For more information about our robotic surgical program, call (404) 851-8200 or visit www.northside.com for a free physician referral.

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