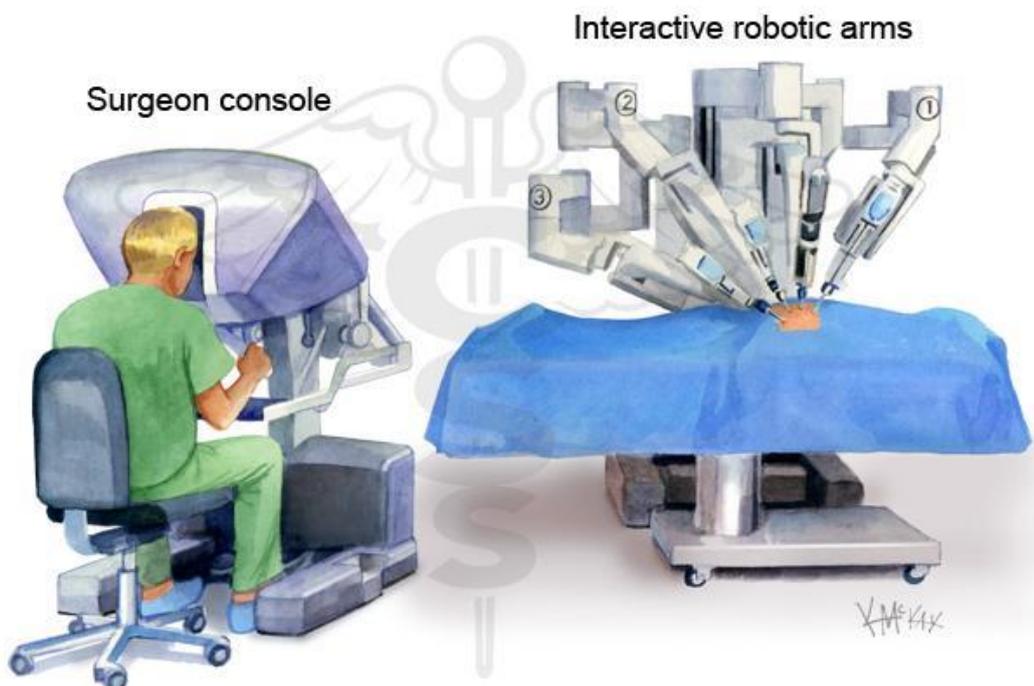


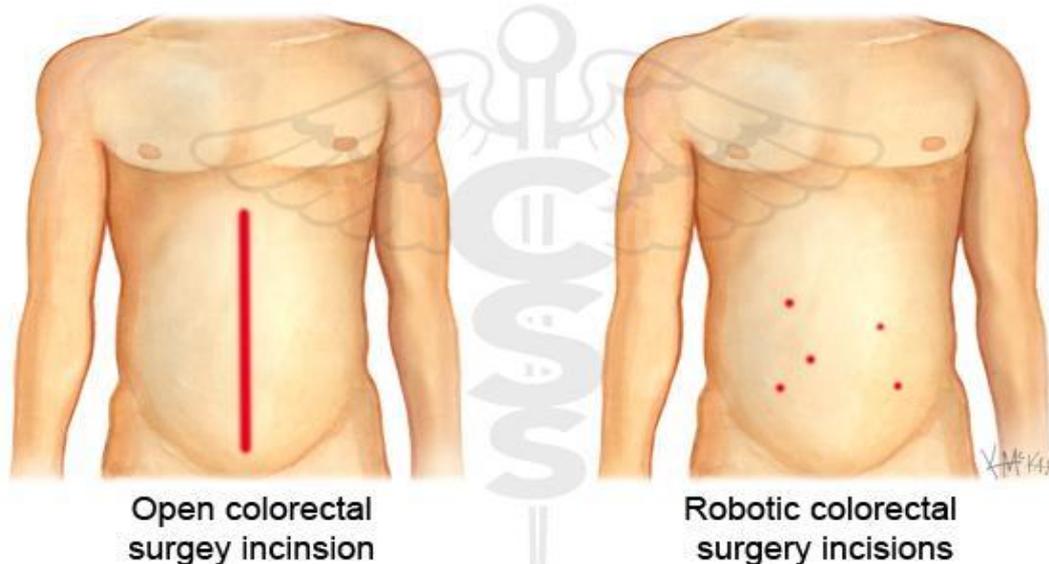
# ROBOTIC COLORECTAL SURGERY

Robotic colorectal surgery with the Da Vinci® robot, allows for the benefits of minimally invasive surgery, along with the fine precision, 3D vision and magnified view afforded only by robotic surgery.



**Figure 1. Robotic colorectal surgery with Da Vinci® operating system.**

Its main advantage over open surgery is the avoidance of large incisions. The improved visibility and dexterity of robotic surgery allow for less blood loss, shorter hospital stay and faster recovery compared with open surgery.



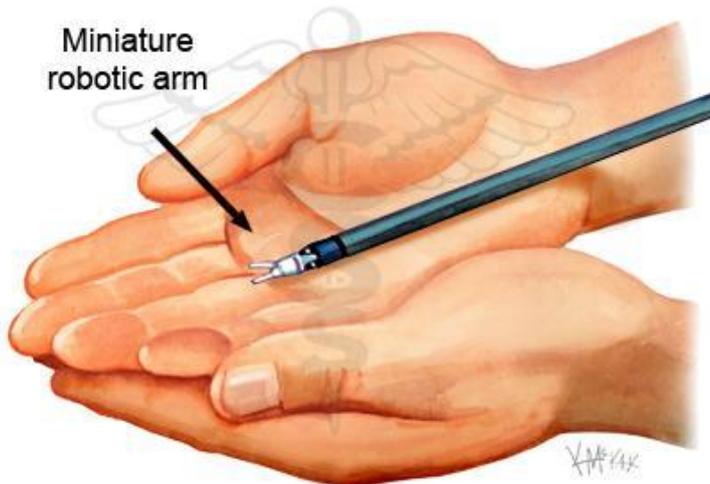
**Figure 2. Open Colorectal Surgical Incision versus da Vinci Colorectal Surgical Incisions.**

Its main application is for difficult surgery low in the pelvis, making it particularly suitable for low rectal surgery including that for rectal prolapse and rectal cancer. Robotic surgery has been shown now to take slightly longer than conventional laparoscopic surgery [1] but results in improved resection margins and less blood loss. With improved resection margins, the risk of inadvertent nerve injury and sexual dysfunction is thought to be less.



### How does robotic surgery work?

Though often called “robotic surgery”, the surgery is entirely performed by your colorectal surgeon, with miniature robotic arms inserted through just a few tiny openings. The da Vinci system has been used successfully worldwide in hundreds of thousands of procedures to date.



**Figure 3. Miniature robotic arm inserted through a tiny opening**

### Where is robotic surgery available?

Robotic surgery is now available at Hurstville Private, Westmead Private and Strathfield Private hospital.

### What is the added cost of robotic surgery

Robotic surgery is not yet fully reimbursed by health funds or medicare, therefore there are additional costs that you will need to discuss with your colorectal surgeon.

### WHAT TO EXPECT PRE AND POST OPERATIVELY FOR ROBOTIC COLORECTAL SURGERY

You will need to have only clear fluids the day before your surgery. Clear liquids are those that one can see through. When a clear liquid is in a container such as a bowl or glass, the container is visible through the substance. You will also require bowel prep to clean your colon. Take a Pico-sulfate (Picoprep®) prep at 2pm 4pm and 6pm the day before your procedure. You need to fast from midnight the night before if your surgery is scheduled for the morning, or from 6am if scheduled for the afternoon. Immediately after your procedure you will be commenced on free fluids (semi thickened fluids such as custard, yoghurt, thin porridge). The small incisions of robotic surgery allow you to mobilise from day one. You will be commenced on a light diet once you have passed flatus. You will be discharged from hospital once you have opened your bowels. A typical admission is anywhere from 3 days to 7 days.

Post operatively, you will need to see your colorectal surgeon at 3-6 weeks post-operatively to check on your progress. If your surgery is for cancer, you will then be followed up regularly (every 1-3 years), with colonoscopy performed at regular intervals.

### References

1. Maeso S, Reza M, Mayol JA, Blasco JA, Guerra M, Andradas E, Plana MN. Efficacy of the Da Vinci surgical system in abdominal surgery compared with that of laparoscopy: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Ann Surg.* 2010 Aug;252(2):254-62.

