

Robotic Surgery for Prostate and Kidney Cancer

We are offering you robotic surgery for your cancer, and it is important you understand what this means.

Robotic surgery, also called robot-assisted surgery, allows your surgeon to perform many types of complex procedures with more precision, flexibility and control than is possible with conventional techniques. Robotic surgery is minimally invasive surgery - a procedure performed through small incisions in the skin.

The robotic surgical system includes a camera arm and mechanical arms with surgical instruments attached to them. The robot does not perform the surgery - the surgeon always has full control of the arms and instruments while seated at a computer console near the operating table. The console gives the surgeon a high-definition, magnified, 3D view of the surgical site. The surgeon leads other team members who assist during the operation.

The robotic system enhances the precision, flexibility and control during your operation and allows your surgeon to better see the site of the operation, compared with traditional techniques. Using robotic surgery, surgeons can perform delicate and complex procedures that may be difficult with conventional techniques or that may normally require an open type of operation.

We know that the outcomes from robotic surgery for prostate and kidney cancer are at least as good, and in many ways better, than the older techniques of open (with a cut) and laparoscopic (keyhole) surgery. As a result of this, the number of patients undergoing robotic surgery has steadily risen over the last 20 years. More than 9 in 10 of all prostate cancer operations in the UK are now performed using a robotic surgical system.

If you have any questions or concerns about undergoing a robotic procedure, please discuss this further with your surgeon or clinical nurse specialist by contacting us on 01225 824250.

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If you would like this leaflet in email form, large print, braille or another language, please contact the Patient Support and Complaints team on 01225 825656

Date of publication: May 2023 | Ref: URO/05555
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