



**THE UROLOGY CENTER
OF COLORADO**

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**THE UROLOGY CENTER OF COLORADO – USING ADVANCED
SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE UROLOGIC CANCER
OUTCOMES**

DENVER – May 13, 2010 – According to the American Cancer Society, more than 70,000 Americans will be diagnosed with bladder cancer this year. Kidney cancer will be detected in more than 57,000 Americans. For decades, these patients have been treated with open, invasive surgeries. No longer. Surgeons at The Urology Center of Colorado (TUCC) have now performed the first da Vinci robotic cystectomy (bladder removal) in Denver and are among the first surgeons to perform partial robotic nephrectomies (removal of cancerous renal mass) in the metro area.

Robotic assisted laparoscopic surgery is performed through several small ½ inch long incisions on the abdominal wall. In contrast, open urologic surgeries are performed through a 6-12 inch long incision. The robotic cart is positioned over the patient and its four arms have surgical instruments that are inserted through laparoscopic ports to access the body cavity during the operation. The surgeon console is a separate unit that controls the movements of the robot cart inside the body.

On March 26th, 64-year-old Dennis Owens underwent a successful robotic cystectomy at Swedish Medical Center in Denver. Dennis was diagnosed with bladder cancer in 2005 and his cancer eventually progressed to necessitate bladder removal. A little more than one month after the surgery, Dennis is resting comfortably at home and getting back to his normal routine. And also in March, TUCC surgeon, Marklyn Jones, M.D., performed his 80th robotic partial nephrectomy for kidney cancer, also at Swedish Hospital.

“As a patient who has experienced both open and robotic surgeries, the outcome differences between the two are night and day,” said TUCC patient Michael Dallum who had an open nephrectomy of his right kidney in 2003 and also underwent a robotic partial nephrectomy of his left kidney in December 2009. “I am still in pain from the open nephrectomy procedure that was done seven years ago. With the robotic surgery, my scarring is minimal, I only spent four days in the hospital and went back to work in just three weeks. If I have to have another surgery in my lifetime, I want it to be performed robotically.”

Distinct advantages to robotic surgery over open surgery include decreased blood loss, shorter hospital stays, decreased recovery times, improved

visualization and less post-operative pain. With robotic assisted laparoscopic surgery, a surgeon's hand movements are motion scaled and any hand tremor is filtered resulting in perfectly translated, precise movements of the instruments.

"Minimally invasive robotic surgery has been demonstrated to be equivalent or superior to most open urologic surgical techniques," said Marklyn Jones, M.D., TUCC physician. "At TUCC, our surgeons are at the forefront of providing patients in the Rocky Mountain region with this technology. Six TUCC surgeons specialize in performing robotic surgery and have successfully completed more than 1,000 of these procedures since 2003. Our goal is to consistently improve patient outcomes in a manner that is both cutting-edge and clinically safe."

The first da Vinci robotic prostatectomy (removal of the prostate) was performed in 2000 and over the past 10 years the surgical procedure has grown to become the top treatment choice in the country for prostate cancer. Over the next decade, as the technology improves and the surgical instruments get even smaller, it's likely that robotic technology will also become the standard of care for bladder and kidney cancer.

For more information on da Vinci surgical techniques as well as risk factors and treatment options for urologic cancers visit www.tucc.com.

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About TUCC:

The Urology Center of Colorado (TUCC) is the only comprehensive urology center in the Rocky Mountain region, providing treatment for all urologic conditions. TUCC's comprehensive services include ambulatory surgery, brachytherapy, female urology treatments, lithotripsy, male fertility treatments, minimally invasive treatments for prostate disease, patient support groups, radiation oncology, treatment of urologic cancers, urodynamics, vasectomy and vasectomy reversals. All outpatient urologic procedures are performed in TUCC's 60,000 square-foot facility located just north of Invesco Field. To learn more, please visit www.tucc.com.