



A Closer Look at Robotic Surgery

By Fox Valley Surgical Specialists

Celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2020, Appleton-based Fox Valley Surgical Specialists (FVSS) has been integrating the latest technology advances since 1970, staying on top of the most cutting-edge innovations in surgery and incorporating the most sophisticated procedures into patient care.

One of those advances is robotic surgery.

Performed using FDA-approved robotically assisted surgical (RAS) devices, this type of surgery allows minimally invasive procedures to be completed with incredible precision and control. Robotic surgery reduces the need for large incisions during an operation and can be done with much smaller incisions instead.

With robotic surgery, mechanical arms are used to assist during open surgery. These high-tech arms have small surgical instruments attached to the ends as well as a high-definition, 3-D camera that magnifies the surgical site for maximum clarity. The surgeon controls the arms from a console and is able to make precise guided movements during surgery with great accuracy. This method is especially helpful for complex surgeries and those that must be performed within tight or hard-to-access spaces.

In addition to greater precision and clarity, there are many other advantages to robotic surgery. A few of the main ones include less pain, bleeding and scarring. The risk of post-procedure infection is also reduced. Robotic surgeries can mean fewer complications for the patient as well as shorter hospital stays. On top of that, these surgeries often result in faster recovery times and make it possible for patients to return to their normal activities sooner.

Several of the providers at FVSS are trained to perform robotic surgery, including Robert Ballard, MD; Michael Black, MD; Charles Cheng, MD; Peter Janu, MD, FACS; Beth Krieger, MD; Eric Stanelle, MD; Christopher Wagner, MD; and Alexander Wilkes, MD. Robotic surgery is now being utilized in many specialties like colorectal, oncology and women's health and it can be used to treat conditions of the colon, kidney, gallbladder, pancreas and more.

Each patient and his or her individual medical situation must be carefully considered when deciding if robotic surgery is the best option. Although advanced, this type of surgery is only available for certain conditions/procedures. To learn more about the types of robotic surgery performed at Fox Valley Surgical Specialists, please contact our main office at 920-731-8131. Read more about us at www.foxvalleysurgical.com.