



## Da Vinci Hysterectomy Informed Consent Form

### Purpose:

The purpose of a da Vinci hysterectomy is to remove the uterus (womb) through small incisions in the abdominal wall, usually three to four, typically smaller than 1 cm. In addition the tubes and ovaries can be removed if indicated and possibly other disease tissues such as scar tissue, lymph nodes or the appendix.

The function of the uterus is to carry a developing baby or, in the absence of pregnancy, to respond to the hormones produced by the ovary during the monthly cycle. The lower portion of the uterus and cervix (opening of the womb) are attached to the top of the vagina and the upper portion is attached to the fallopian tubes. The ovaries are not part of the tubes or the uterus.

The uterus may be removed by da Vinci for a variety of reasons, some of which may include:

1. Uterine tumors (i.e. fibroids)
2. Bleeding problems
3. Endometriosis
4. Adenomyosis
5. Pelvic pain
6. Cancerous or precancerous conditions of the uterus, tubes, ovaries or cervix
7. Loss of support of the uterus (pelvic relaxation)

### Results of a da Vinci Hysterectomy:

The result of an abdominal hysterectomy is that the uterus is removed and a woman cannot again become pregnant nor will she have periods again.

Each patient experiences surgery differently, however you should expect to experience some discomfort after surgery, but not too much. You may have **incisional pain** that will subside significantly over 12 hours. You may also experience **intestinal cramps**, as the bowels often quit working after surgery. You can expect this to improve after 12-36 hours. Some patients experience **shoulder pain** as a result of the gas used to inflate the abdominal wall for the laparoscopic surgery. Moving around in bed and walking can help relieve this pain. When you wake up, you may have a **sore throat or cough**. You will be given a breathing device to help you re-expand and open your lungs to their normal level.

If the ovaries have been removed, it may be advisable to begin hormone replacement therapy. This will be discussed with each patient individually.

### Risks of a da Vinci Hysterectomy:

While over 96% of surgeries go perfectly well, many factors can affect the outcome. Some of these factors are a result of unforeseen situations from your anatomy or the condition being treated. No two people are built the same. The following is a discussion of some of the potential intraoperative,

postoperative, and anesthesia complications. This list does not include every possible complication, but includes the great majority of potential risks involved in this surgery.

### **A. INTRAOPERATIVE COMPLICATIONS**

- Unexpected findings can necessitate a change in approach, the possibility of a large abdominal incision or even a second surgery.
- Adjacent organs can be impinged upon by adhesions, endometriosis and/or other organs and can be injured during the course of your procedure.
- Excess bleeding into the tissues or internal bleeding after the surgery is completed will occur in about 2% of women.
- Injury to the bowel or urinary tract occurs in 2.3% of women.
- Overall, about 4% of patients will need an additional operation to get their complete recovery.

### **B. POSTOPERATIVE COMPLICATION**

- Fistula formation (healing that leads to an abnormal passage) between the bladder and vagina, or the intestine and vagina
- Infections
- Loss of kidney or a ureter, which may be cut or sutured
- Intestinal obstruction requiring an operation for release of the obstruction
- Fallen vagina (prolapse) if support fails or healing is poor
- Thrombophlebitis (inflammation of the veins) and emboli (blood clots that may break loose in the veins) that can pass to the lungs and obstruct blood flow (pulmonary emboli). This can be a life threatening complication.

### **C. RISK OF ANESTHETIC COMPLICATION**

- Heart rate irregularities
- Respiratory irregularities
- Aspirations of the stomach acid with serious pneumonia
- Sudden changes in blood pressure
- Allergic reactions
- Stoppage of the heart is a rare complication
- Body may lose ability to control body temperature (malignant hypothermia)
- Risk of death, very rare

While your surgeon will take every effort to prevent and avoid these complications, they do occur in about 4% of women.

### **Alternatives to Surgery:**

Using the information provided by your physician, the decision for a da Vinci hysterectomy rests upon YOU, the patient. The alternative of doing nothing is always available. Specific alternatives for your individual condition should be discussed with your physician.

I have read and fully understand the information presented above and its relation to the proposed surgical procedure. I also understand that there is no guarantee of the results of the surgery.

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Signature

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Date

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Printed Name

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Witness

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Date

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Printed Name