

# Considering Surgery for Uterine Fibroids?

Learn why **da Vinci® Surgery**  
may be the best treatment for women  
who want to preserve their uterus



**da Vinci**.Surgery

## The Treatment:

### Myomectomy

Myomectomy is a common alternative to hysterectomy for treating fibroids. Myomectomy is the surgical removal of fibroid tumors while leaving the uterus in place. Myomectomy is often recommended and considered the standard of care for women who want to become pregnant or keep their uterus for other reasons.<sup>2,3</sup>

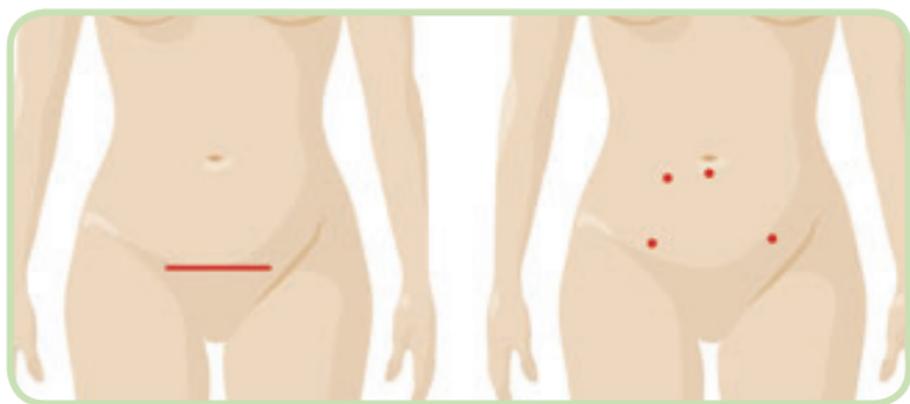
Myomectomy is often performed using traditional open surgery, meaning a large incision is made in the lower abdomen. After removing each fibroid, the surgeon repairs the uterus to minimize potential bleeding, infection and scarring. Proper repair of the uterus is critical to reducing the risk of uterine rupture (tearing) during pregnancy.<sup>3</sup>



While clinical studies support the effectiveness of the *da Vinci* Surgical System when used in minimally invasive surgery, individual results may vary. There are no guarantees of outcome. All surgeries have the potential for major complications. Before you decide on surgery, discuss treatment options with your doctor. Understand the risks and benefits of all treatment options, as well as their risks and benefits. Only your doctor can determine whether *da Vinci* Surgery is the best option for you. Any inaccuracies expressed in this material by patients or doctor about *da Vinci* Surgery are not necessarily the fault of Intuitive Surgical. Advice provided by your doctor. © 2011 Intuitive Surgical. All rights reserved. *Intuitive*, *Intuitive Surgical*, *da Vinci* and *Intuitive Surgical* are registered trademarks of Intuitive Surgical. All other product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners.

Uterine fibroid embolization is a newer, non-invasive treatment in which blood vessels to the uterus are blocked. This stops the blood flow that allows fibroids to grow. Possible side effects include bleeding, infection and difficult getting pregnant.<sup>1</sup>

Laparoscopic myomectomy is another minimally invasive alternative to open surgery but is usually not an option for women with large, multiple, or difficult-to-reach fibroids.<sup>3</sup>



Open Surgery  
Incision

*da Vinci*  
Myomectomy Incisions

A recent clinical study concluded that *da Vinci* Myomectomy may allow more surgeons to provide more women a minimally invasive treatment for fibroids.<sup>4</sup>

involve the risk of  
ing the risks of each treatment can help you make the best  
every individual; it may not be applicable to your condition. Always ask your doctor about  
surgery is appropriate for your situation. The clinical information and opinions, including  
those of Intuitive Surgical, Inc. and should not be considered as substitute for medical  
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## *da Vinci* Myomectomy:

# A Less Invasive Surgical Procedure

If your doctor recommends surgery to treat uterine fibroids, you may be a candidate for *da Vinci* Myomectomy - a minimally invasive, uterine-sparing procedure. Using state-of-the-art technology, *da Vinci* Myomectomy requires only a few tiny incisions so you can get back to your life faster. *da Vinci* enables surgeons to perform this delicate operation with superior vision, precision, dexterity and control.

*da Vinci* Myomectomy offers many potential benefits over traditional surgery, including:

- › Significantly less pain<sup>5</sup>
- › Less blood loss<sup>6,7,8</sup>
- › Minimally invasive option for removing large, numerous, hard-to-reach fibroids<sup>3</sup>
- › Fewer complications and risk of infection<sup>5,6</sup>
- › Shorter hospital stay<sup>5,6,8</sup>
- › Faster recovery and return to normal activities<sup>5</sup>
- › Tiny incisions for excellent cosmetic results

As with any surgery, these benefits cannot be guaranteed, as surgery is unique to each patient and procedure.



## The Enabling Technology: *da Vinci* Surgical System

The *da Vinci* Surgical System is designed to provide surgeons with enhanced capabilities, including high-definition 3D vision and a magnified view. Though it is often called a “robot,” *da Vinci* cannot act on its own. The surgery is performed entirely by your doctor. He or she controls the *da Vinci* System, which translates all hand movements into smaller, more precise movements of tiny instruments inside your body.



Together, *da Vinci* technology allows your doctor to perform complex procedures through just a few tiny openings. As a result, you may be able to get back to life faster without the usual recovery following major surgery.

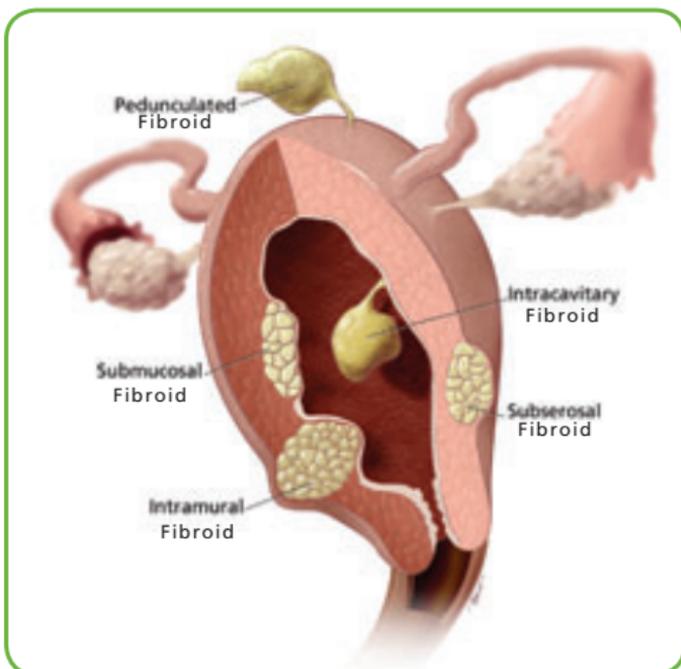
The *da Vinci* System has been used successfully worldwide in hundreds of thousands of procedures to date.

<sup>3</sup>Advincula AP, Song A, Burke W, Reynolds RK. Preliminary experience with robot-assisted laparoscopic myomectomy. *J Am Assoc Gynecol Laparosc.* 2004 Nov;11(4):511-8. <sup>4</sup>Sangeeta Senapati, Arnold P. Advincula. Surgical techniques: robot-assisted laparoscopic myomectomy with the *da Vinci*<sup>®</sup> Surgical System. *J Robotic Surg* (2007) 1:69–74 DOI 10.1007/s11701-007-0014-1. <sup>5</sup>Piquion-Joseph JM, Navar A, Ghazaryan A, Papanna R, Klimek W, Laroia R. Robot-assisted gynecological surgery in a community setting. *Journal of Robotic Surgery*, 2009:1-4. <sup>6</sup>Advincula AP, Xu X, Goudeau S, Ransom SB. Robot-assisted laparoscopic myomectomy versus abdominal myomectomy: A comparison of short-term surgical outcomes and immediate costs. *Journal of Minimally Invasive Gynecology*, 2007. <sup>7</sup>Visco AG, Advincula AP. Robotic gynecologic surgery. *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, 2008;112(6):1369-1384. <sup>8</sup>Ascher-Walsh CJ, Capes TL. Robot-assisted laparoscopic myomectomy is an improvement over laparotomy in women with a limited number of myomas. *J Minim Invasive Gynecol.* 2010 May-Jun;17(3):306-10. Epub 2010 Mar 19.

## The Condition: Uterine Fibroids

A uterine fibroid is a common type of benign (non-cancerous) tumor that can grow within the uterine wall, inside and also outside the uterus. Uterine fibroids are most common in women ages 30 to 40, but can occur at any age.<sup>1</sup> An estimated 20 to 80% of women develop fibroids by age 50.<sup>2</sup> Uterine fibroids are the most common reason a hysterectomy is performed.<sup>2</sup>

Uterine fibroids may grow as a single tumor or in clusters. They often increase in size and frequency with age, but may shrink after menopause. Not all women experience symptoms due to fibroids. When symptoms are present, they may include: excessive menstrual bleeding, pelvic pain, frequent urination and difficulty getting pregnant.



Uterus with fibroid tumors

<sup>1</sup>Uterine Fibroids; American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Available from: [http://www.acog.org/publications/patient\\_education/bp074.cfm](http://www.acog.org/publications/patient_education/bp074.cfm). <sup>2</sup>Uterine Fibroids; WomensHealth.gov U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Available from: <http://www.womenshealth.gov/faq/uterine-fibroids.cfm#5>

Your doctor is one of a growing number of surgeons offering *da Vinci* Surgery to remove **uterine fibroids**.

All surgeries, including *da Vinci* Surgery, involve risk of major complications. Before you decide on surgery, discuss treatment options with your doctor. Understanding the risks of each treatment can help you make the best decision for your individual situation.

For more information about *da Vinci* Myomectomy and to find a *da Vinci* Surgeon near you, visit:  
**[www.daVinciSurgery.com](http://www.daVinciSurgery.com)**

