

# Navigate your path forward

Understand your options for kidney surgery.



INTUITIVE

## **You have options. Find your way forward.**

There are a number of conditions that may prompt your doctor to recommend kidney surgery. They can range from benign (noncancerous) conditions to cancerous conditions. Surgery is one option you and your doctor may discuss if you've been diagnosed with kidney cancer.

It's important to learn about the many options for care available. You and your doctor can discuss your choices and decide which approach is right for you. This brochure can help you understand the surgical options available.



## What is kidney surgery?

Kidney surgery is surgery to remove all or a portion of your kidney. The main types of kidney surgery include:

- Partial nephrectomy — removal of a portion of the kidney, leaving the rest of the kidney intact
- Radical nephrectomy — removal of the entire kidney

These procedures can be recommended for cancerous and noncancerous (benign) conditions. You should discuss all options with your doctor, including surgery.

## If you are a candidate for surgery, your surgeon may recommend:



### Open surgery

Surgeon makes an incision in your abdomen or the side of your abdomen. The incision is large enough to see the kidney and perform the procedure using hand-held tools.



### Laparoscopic surgery

Surgeon makes a few small incisions in the abdomen and operates using special long-handled tools while viewing magnified images from the laparoscope (camera) on a video screen.



### Robotic-assisted surgery

Surgeon controls a robotic system to perform the procedure.

## What will my surgeon do?

If you and your doctor decide that robotic-assisted surgery is right for you, here is what may happen.



—  
*Actual  
incision size*

Your surgeon makes a few small incisions or a single small incision, and uses a 3DHD camera for a crystal-clear, magnified view of your kidney and surrounding tissue.



Your surgeon sits at a console next to you and operates through the incisions using tiny instruments and the camera.



The da Vinci® system translates your surgeon's hand movements in real time, bending and rotating instruments that move like the human hand, but with a greater range of motion.

The da Vinci system is a tool used for surgery, but it does not treat cancer.

## How can you prepare for surgery?

One way to learn more about your surgery is to ask your doctor and care team questions.



### Here are some questions you might ask:

What medical and surgical options are available for me?

Which is best for my situation?

If I decide to have surgery, am I a candidate for partial nephrectomy?

What are the differences between open, laparoscopic, and robotic-assisted surgery?

Should I get a second opinion?

What am I likely to experience after surgery?

What is your surgical training and experience?

What is your experience with robotic-assisted surgery?

What are your patient outcomes?

## **Does a robot perform the surgery?**

No. While the word “robotic” is in the description, a robot doesn’t perform surgery. Surgeons perform surgery using the da Vinci system’s camera and instruments.

## **Do surgeons train before doing robotic-assisted surgery?**

Yes. Surgeons are trained to use the system and get clearance from their hospitals to perform robotic-assisted surgery before they can use the da Vinci system in any surgical procedure.

## **What are the outcomes?**

Be sure to talk with your surgeon about the surgical outcomes they deliver by using the da Vinci system, as every surgeon’s experience is different. Examples of outcomes you might ask about include:

- Length of hospital stay
- Length of surgery
- Chance of switching to an open procedure
- Complication rate
- Kidney function

There are additional outcomes of surgery that you may want to talk with your doctor about. Please ask them about all important outcomes of surgery.

To find out more about surgery with the da Vinci system, visit the Kidney Surgery page on [www.davincisurgery.com](http://www.davincisurgery.com).



Get back to what  
matters most.



## **Surgical risks**

Risks associated with nephrectomy (kidney removal) including partial nephrectomy (removing part of the kidney) include poor kidney function often due to limited blood flow, leaking of urine, cut or tear in the spleen, pancreas or liver, bowel injury, trapped air between the chest wall and lung, injury to diaphragm (muscle separating the chest from the abdomen), urinary fistula (abnormal bond of an organ, intestine or vessel to another part of the body), abnormal pooling of urine, limited or cut off blood supply to kidney, abnormal pooling of lymph fluid.

## **Important safety information**

Patients should talk to their doctors to decide if surgery using the da Vinci system is right for them. Patients and doctors should review all available information on nonsurgical and surgical options and associated risks in order to make an informed decision.

Serious complications may occur in any surgery, including surgery using the da Vinci system, up to and including death. Serious risks include, but are not limited to, injury to tissues and organs and conversion to other surgical techniques, which could result in a longer operative time and/or increased complications.

For important safety information, including surgical risks, indications, and considerations and contraindications for use, please refer to [www.intuitive.com/safety](http://www.intuitive.com/safety).

Individuals' outcomes may depend on a number of factors, including but not limited to patient characteristics, disease characteristics, and/or surgeon experience.

## **Precaution statement**

The demonstration of safety and effectiveness for the representative specific procedures was based on evaluation of the device as a surgical tool and did not include evaluation of outcomes related to the treatment of cancer (overall survival, disease-free survival, local recurrence) or treatment of the patient's underlying disease/condition. Device usage in all surgical procedures should be guided by the clinical judgment of an adequately trained surgeon.

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