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SAINT FRANCIS BECOMES THE FIRST CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL TO PERFORM COLORECTAL ROBOTIC SURGERY

Prostatectomy, Hysterectomy, and Now Colorectal Procedures Utilize the da Vinci® S™ Surgical System

(Hartford, CT) – Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center has introduced a new tool in the fight against cancer, perfectly timed with March’s dedication as *Colon Cancer Awareness Month*.

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in the United States.

David L. Walters, M.D., Colon and Rectal Surgeon at Saint Francis, is now the first surgeon in the State to perform colorectal surgery using the da Vinci® S™ Surgical System. Dr. Walters is using the robot to conduct the following procedures:

- Low Anterior Resection - a surgical procedure used to remove the cancerous tissue in the lower colon.
- Sigmoid Resection – a surgical procedure used to remove portions of the colon above the rectum and below the descending colon.
- Rectopexy – a surgical procedure to fix a rectum that has fallen out of place.



Left: Dr. Jeffrey Steinberg, Chairman, Department of Surgery at Saint Francis; and Dr. David Walters, Colon and Rectal Surgeon at Saint Francis.

“I can’t think of any case where I would not consider using the da Vinci robot. This is such an important, innovative tool for treating patients with colon cancer. It is minimally invasive, precise in its control, and gives patients faster recoveries,” said Dr. Walters.

Saint Francis recently acquired a second da Vinci robot to help create a multidisciplinary program incorporating urology, gynecology, and now colorectal surgery.

“Since we first brought robotic technology to Saint Francis two years ago, we have seen a steady growth in volume in gynecological procedures. We are proud to be the leader in the community for both robotic hysterectomies and other oncology-related gynecologic procedures. We expect to see this trend continue as we introduce robotic colorectal surgery to the program,” added Jeffrey Steinberg, M.D., Chairman of the Department of Surgery, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center.

To perform minimally invasive surgery using da Vinci, surgeons utilize robotic arms and a camera. Through high-tech video imaging, surgeons are given a three-dimensional view of the body’s interior. Tiny instruments attached to robotic arms are controlled by the surgeon who is positioned behind a console. Small 1- to 2-centimeter incisions provide minimally invasive surgical access. In the end, a patient can experience less pain, less blood loss, and a quicker recovery time.

Founded in 1897, Saint Francis is a major teaching hospital licensed for 617 acute inpatient beds and 65 bassinets and is the largest Catholic hospital in New England.