Use of da Vinci Xi Improves Effectiveness of Robotic Esophagectomies

The Esophageal Center of Excellence at Virginia Mason has been the Pacific Northwest’s leader in caring for patients with complex esophageal disease for the last two decades. The latest extension of the cutting-edge esophageal work is the use of the da Vinci Xi® system to perform robotic esophagectomy, a procedure introduced by Michal Hubka, MD, Virginia Mason thoracic surgeon. The technique is a further enhancement of the accelerated recovery pathway already utilized at Virginia Mason under the leadership of Donald Low, MD.

“The robot allows us to make small incisions in the patient’s chest rather than a large one,” says Dr. Hubka. “It improves the recovery for these patients, who go home in less than a week following surgery.” Patients undergoing robotic esophagectomies also appear to have decreased need for narcotic pain medications and experience a shorter length of stay compared to open surgery.

Robotic surgery is gaining importance in complex thoracoscopic surgery. The robotic-assisted minimally invasive esophagectomy was initially designed using the first generation of the robotic system. The da Vinci Xi has substantially increased the dexterity, especially designed for multiquadrant surgery.

The da Vinci Xi is also being used in other thoracic operations. “The robotic approach offers advantages in anterior mediastinal tumors and lung surgery, as well as achalasia and paraesophageal hernia repair,” says Dr. Hubka.

Virginia Mason’s esophagectomy outcomes have attracted international attention, leading to multiple visits from high-volume esophageal centers each year. Virginia Mason is also pioneering an international effort to standardize the categorization of morbidity for esophageal cancer.

Experience, Multidisciplinary Approach Critical to Successful Parathyroid Surgery

When accurately diagnosed, parathyroid disease can be cured with surgery to remove the affected gland. However, given the size of parathyroid glands and the challenges involved in localizing them, parathyroidectomies are most successful when performed by experienced surgeons backed by a multidisciplinary team dedicated to parathyroid disease.

“This is a very rewarding surgery that takes approximately 30 minutes, after which the patient is essentially cured,” says Adnan Alseidi, MD, EdM, FACS, endocrine surgeon at Virginia Mason’s Digestive Disease Institute. “While the surgery is low risk, complications, such as nerve injury, can occur.”

Virginia Mason performs approximately 100 minimally invasive parathyroidectomies each year, one of the highest volumes in the Pacific Northwest. It has a same-day cure success rate of greater than 99 percent.

Much of Virginia Mason’s success can be attributed to its ability to pre-operatively localize parathyroids that other centers can’t always find. “Our dedicated radiologists rely on fused nuclear imaging and 4D cross-sectional radiology for localization,” says Dr. Alseidi. “They are very good at what they do, and we’re able to find parathyroids in more than 90 percent of patients who have the disease and for whom the glands were not initially localized.”

Virginia Mason’s streamlined approach to parathyroid disease includes minimizing redundant labs or imaging done elsewhere. Existing images are reviewed by radiology and surgery professionals specializing in parathyroid disease. Same-day visits are scheduled so that a patient can come for labs and imaging (if needed), see an endocrinologist with parathyroid experience, and visit with a surgeon. If desired, they can have their surgery the next day.
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**Referral Assistance**

PHONE: 877-333-0122  
FAX: 800-641-9002  
E-MAIL: Referral@VirginiaMason.org  
WEB: VirginiaMason.org/For-Clinicians

Virginia Mason accepts all major insurance plans and always welcomes new patients. A primary care relationship is not required for referrals. For more info about insurance coverage, please visit VirginiaMason.org/Insurance.

**Patient Transfer Center**

Virginia Mason's dedicated Patient Transfer Center team is available to help you access inpatient services and connect you to a Virginia Mason specialist within minutes. We work with you and your patients to ensure the highest quality of care 24 hours a day. The team will: facilitate physician consults to assess patient condition and coordinate a safe care handoff; collect and document clinical information and prepare to receive the patient; facilitate the electronic transfer of images; and keep you informed of the status of your transfer request.

For more information, call 206-341-1141 VirginiaMason.org/Patient-Transfer-Center

**CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION**

Spinal Deformity 2019: Reality vs. The Ivory Tower  
Friday, May 3  
Virginia Mason Seattle Medical Center  
Volney Richmond Auditorium  
PHONE: 206-341-0142  
E-MAIL: CME@VirginiaMason.org  
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**FEATURED VIRGINIA MASON SPECIALISTS**

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