

Robotic Surgery



Services

UTMB surgeons were the first in the Southwest to practice computer-enhanced robotic surgery. This revolutionary technology allows the surgeon to perform minimally invasive surgery in cases that otherwise would be performed by conventional open surgery due to current limitations of conventional laparoscopic surgery.

Many abdominal procedures are moving from traditional laparoscopic techniques to the more advanced robotic system. One major advantage of robotic surgery is the enhanced dexterity obtained by using articulated endoscopic instruments which possess 7-degree of freedom, tremor filtration, and scale of motion. The second great improvement is the use of real, magnified 3-dimensional optical system. The apparatus has two main components—a seven-foot tall tower with robotic arms and a console where a surgeon is seated looking down at a three-dimensional view of the organs on which he or she is working. From the console, the surgeon controls the four robotic arms that position and maneuver the endoscopic instruments that the surgeon inserts into the

patient through small incisions. Organs or systems approached using robotic technology at UTMB include: esophagus, stomach, gallbladder, pancreas, adrenal gland, spleen, kidney, colon and rectum, uterus and adnexa, urinary bladder, and prostate.

The most tangible advantages of robotic surgery for the patient include:

- Less pain and decreased use of narcotics
- Faster return to bowel function and earlier institution of medical therapies
- Shorter hospital stay
- Prompt return to normal activities and work
- Less disability and dependence on ancillary services (rehabilitation)
- Better cosmesis
- In summary, better quality of life



Surgeons



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