

# EXPERIENCE DRIVES SUCCESS

## Scope of da Vinci<sup>®</sup> robot broadens to include urologic procedures

Within its first year in operation at the Southeast Georgia Health System Brunswick Campus, the da Vinci<sup>®</sup> Surgical System was already delivering on its promise. Surgeons have been able to perform minimally invasive gynecologic procedures, such as hysterectomies, with greater precision and dexterity. This allows patients to experience fewer complications, less blood loss during surgery and less pain and scarring after. Now, the da Vinci system's capabilities are also being used to perform urologic procedures.

### MORE UROLOGIC OPTIONS

Surgeons at the Health System began using the da Vinci robot to assist with urologic procedures this spring, says Joseph A. Lanzone, M.D., board-certified urologist and member of the Health System medical staff.

“By far, the most common procedure that we use it for is radical prostatectomies,” he says. “But it can also be used for cystectomies and other bladder procedures, surgery on the ureter to repair damage or remove blockage, and incontinence procedures or pelvic prolapse.”

### MORE FREEDOM TO MOVE

While laparoscopic surgery offers the benefits of smaller incisions and faster recovery time, da Vinci builds on that, with 3-D imaging and robotically enhanced movement capabilities that make minimally invasive surgeries easier to perform than with the laparoscope alone. And da Vinci allows for greater dexterity within small spaces as well, which is particularly helpful in performing urologic procedures, Dr. Lanzone says.

“We tend to work deep in the pelvis, where working space is limited,” he says. “But the robot allows us to see things we normally would not be able to see very clearly with highly magnified 3-D imaging, and



*From left, James M. Muse Jr., M.D., and Joseph A. Lanzone, M.D., with the da Vinci Surgical System.*

it allows us to make precise movements in very tight spaces. It really is very beneficial to both the surgeon and the patient.”

### LESS CATHETERIZATION TIME

James M. Muse Jr., M.D., board-certified urologist at the Health System, says that da Vinci also offers another benefit for prostatectomy patients.

“Not only does it give us better surgical control, better visualization and magnification, but for patients undergoing prostatectomy, it results in shorter catheterization times,” he says.

Not all patients will be candidates for da Vinci, Dr. Muse points out. “Each treatment decision needs to be individualized based on each specific patient's situation,” he says. ❏

### CONNECT WITH US

For more information about the da Vinci<sup>®</sup> Surgical System, visit [sghs.org/davinci](http://sghs.org/davinci).

