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ROBOTIC ASSISTED LAPAROSCOPIC NEPHRECTOMY

Providing Specialist Care in South Australia & Northern Territory

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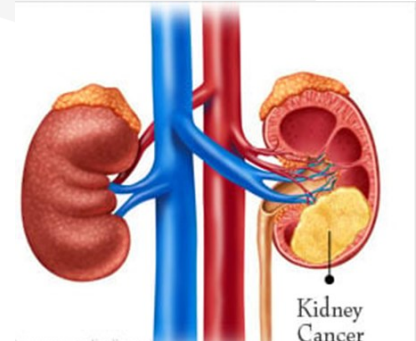
What is a Nephrectomy?

A nephrectomy is the surgical removal of the whole or part of a kidney, performed for cancer or serious kidney diseases. Kidney function is critical to life, being responsible for filtering waste and fluid from the bloodstream, however, one kidney can maintain body activity.

Nephrectomy may be;

Radical - involves total removal of the kidney, adrenal gland, a section of the ureter, lymph nodes and some surrounding tissue.

Partial - removal of a portion of the kidney.



About the Robotic Assisted procedure

A robotic assisted laparoscopic nephrectomy is an operation that uses the latest *da Vinci Xi Robot* to assist the surgeon with either a partial or complete surgical removal of the kidney.

A high definition 3D view results in enhanced vision for the surgeon and allows all members of the surgical team to view the procedure. The robotic system uses wristed instruments that bend and rotate far greater than the human hand, ensuring greater precision and control. It is less invasive for the patient, and enables quicker recovery post-op and shorter hospital stays.

Websites for learning more about robotic surgery are listed below.

www.intuitivesurgical.com

Da Vinci Surgery:

www.davincisurgery.com

The da Vinci Xi system



Prior to the operation you would have discussed important aspects of the surgery. The way your surgery is approached depends upon the extent of the disease. Six small 'band-aid' type incisions are made across the lower abdomen. If the kidney needs to be removed, a 5cm incision will be made in the lower left or right side of the abdomen.

Preparation for the procedure

We will provide you with instruction regarding all aspects of preparing for your operation;

- Pre-operative blood and urine tests
- Details of admission to hospital
- Information regarding fasting and medications

What to expect afterwards

In recovery, staff will make sure you are comfortable and pain relief will be given as required. Fluid and diet is given as tolerated and early ambulation is encouraged. Deep breathing exercises may be uncomfortable but should be performed to prevent pneumonia. Compression stockings are worn for prevention of deep vein clots, as is the use of the medication Clexane, which stops unwanted blood clots from forming. A urinary catheter may be in place but is usually removed within 48 hrs post operatively. The hospital stay depends on the type of surgery but in most cases is usually 2 nights.

