

DAYTON HEALTHCARE PROFILES

Minimally Invasive Surgery: Easier on the Cancer Patient

Some are the days when every surgery to remove a cancerous tumor involved a large incision and a prolonged—and often painful—recovery.

“Advanced laparoscopy is performed through small incisions with slender surgical instruments, guided by a tiny surgical camera. This technology is now used to treat cancers in many parts of the body,” observes Damian I. Lebamoff, MD, FACS, of Dayton Surgeons. “Minimally invasive surgery can allow patients to regain their stamina more quickly, so they may be able to start other treatments like radiotherapy and chemotherapy sooner.

“Our board-certified and fellowship-trained surgeons stay on the leading edge of this continually evolving field, ensuring that our patients always have access to the most advanced, proven standards of care for cancer treatment.”

Minimally invasive surgery carries fewer potential risks than traditional open surgery, post-operative pain can be significantly reduced, and smaller incisions allow for quicker healing with only minimal scarring.

Even so, this surgery isn't always the right choice for a particular patient. Notes Philip C. Williams Jr., MD, FACS, “Our surgeons

have extensive experience in traditional open surgery as well, and we use that experience to help guide each patient to the precise procedure that promises the best outcome.

“It's something that sets us apart,” says Dr. Williams. “We have enough experience with both surgical approaches to give an unbiased opinion about each patient's choices.”

Quick response

“Patients don't want to wait a month, or even a week, to see a surgeon and discuss their options after receiving a diagnosis of cancer,” notes Jonathan E. Velasco, MD, FACS. “We work hard to schedule appointments for new patients within a day or two, and we see our patients personally; we don't rely on anyone else's observations.

“Each of us feels strongly about our personal involvement in following our patients from office to surgery to follow-up.”

“At the same time, we offer our patients the security of a team approach,” adds Dr. Williams. “They are never without a caring, informed surgeon who can step in to answer questions or provide care when it's needed.”

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Jonathan E. Velasco, MD, FACS

Vascular Surgery “In the Spotlight”

Dayton Surgeons also offers minimally invasive approaches for addressing vascular disease, using the same endovascular approaches that are available in a large university setting.

“A good example is the treatment for abdominal aortic aneurysm [AAA],” says Dr. Velasco. “This used to require an incision from the breastbone to the pubic bone and a hospital stay of up to ten days, followed by a three-month recovery period. Now, with two small groin punctures, we can place a stent endovenously and send a patient home the next day, to be back to full capacity within a couple of weeks.”

- ▶ Philip C. Williams, Jr., MD, FACS
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