



# Robotic Assisted **RADICAL** PROSTATECTOMY

## Robotic Assisted Radical Prostatectomy

Robotic Assisted Radical Prostatectomy is now the procedure of choice for the surgical treatment of prostate cancer.

It is not carried out automatically by the robot but by the surgeon sitting at the console in the left of the picture, the assistants watching the screens on the right with the robot arms inserted through small incisions (approximately 1.5cm) in the patient.

The advances of this system are designed to improve on conventional laparoscopy with the assistance of robotic instruments that contain jointed wrist designs that allow for exceeding the natural range of motion of the human hand.

It is rather like the use of a Playstation®. It enables the surgery to be magnified so that important structures can be preserved and the surgery is more accurate. There is less bleeding during the procedure, less pain because of the small incisions and patients are able to return to normal activities quickly.

The advantage of robotic assisted radical prostatectomy is that the complication rate is generally much lower when compared to laparoscopic radical prostatectomy and open radical prostatectomy.

The main concerns for patients when considering a radical prostatectomy as the treatment for their prostate cancer are first of all, the ability to clear the cancer and then the two main side effects related. These are urinary incontinence and erectile dysfunction. The continence rate following open radical prostatectomy has been reported between 90-92% where as after robotic assisted radical prostatectomy it was 95-96%. Data on potency following radical prostatectomy is not clear to date.

However, it has been suggested that robotic assisted radical prostatectomy has some advantages in recovery of potency over the other procedures related to being able to more accurately identify and preserve the nerves but still clearing the cancer. This is significantly related to the experience of the surgeon.

Clearance of cancer outcomes following surgery are an important aspect of any surgical technique. One way to measure these is positive surgical margin rate. This is the distance between the cancer and the normal tissues and occurs when the distance is too close. Robotic assisted radical prostatectomy has been shown in multiple surgical studies to be superior to open techniques with as low as 8% in cohorts.

It is important to remember that not all patients with prostate cancer require surgery. As with any treatment, the idea is to live for a good time and a long time and as a result treatments need to be tailored for the individual. Sometimes no treatment is the best treatment.

Cairns Urology has immediate access for patients requiring robot assisted radical prostatectomy in both the public and private sectors.

- Choice for the surgical treatment of prostate cancer

- Immediate access for private and public patients

- There is less bleeding during the procedure



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