

CONTACT PERSON: Robin Jennings
Marketing and Communications
Excela Health

724-689-0206 TEL
724-516-4483 CELL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**EXCELA HEALTH GYNECOLOGIST COMPLETES 100TH PROCEDURE
WITH DAVINCI ROBOT SURGICAL SYSTEM**

LATROBE, PA, January 7, 2013 ... Physicians at Excela Health have been offering robot-assisted surgery since 2009 to treat a variety of conditions. Latrobe gynecologist Tracy Gemmell recently completed her 100th procedure with the da Vinci Surgical System, which is also being used for general surgery and urology. To date, nearly 900 patients have benefited from this tool housed at Excela Latrobe Hospital which helps surgeons achieve greater precision, better range of motion and increased visibility in a variety of complex procedures, often with improved outcomes.

For most patients, minimally invasive robot-assisted surgery means less pain, less blood, less scarring, less risk of infection or other complications, and shorter amounts of time in the hospital with shorter recovery periods. Most patients especially like that surgical incisions can be as small as the size of a ball-point pen's tip (roughly one to two centimeters across), a vast improvement over traditional eight- to 10-inch openings.

Surgeons also benefit. The high-resolution endoscopic camera and compatible viewer magnify the image, dramatically enhancing the surgeon's visualization; the ergonomic design eliminates the need to stand in awkward positions for long hours; and software filters out hand tremors—in traditional open surgery, a slight shake of the surgeon's hands could affect the instruments.

Additionally, the surgeon's scale of motion benefits from increased dexterity, precision and control. Movements can be proportionately scaled down, allowing for surgery in miniscule or hard-to-reach spaces.

Surgeons worldwide perform more than 130,000 procedures using the da Vinci technology each year; and experts expect that number to increase. At Excelsa Health, the daVinci system is utilized by eight physicians and has aided in gynecological surgeries including hysterectomy and uterine prolapse, urologic surgeries and surgeries treating multiple types of cancer—including kidneys, prostate and uterus. And Excelsa Health surgeons are now offering robot-assisted surgery for gall bladder removal.

Using the da Vinci surgical system, the surgeon operates while seated at a console viewing a 3D image of the surgical field. The surgeon manipulates the master controls below the display, and the system translates those hand, wrist and finger movements into precise, real-time movements of surgical instruments inside the patient.

Excelsa is the first health care organization in the region outside of Pittsburgh to have the da Vinci system. To learn more about robot-assisted surgery, or to view a procedure, visit www.excelahealth.org. For a physician referral, contact the Excelsa Health Call Center, toll-free, 1-877-771-1234.