

The Center for Advanced Reproductive Services

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Dr. David W. Schmidt Certified in Robotic Surgery



Infertility treatments sometimes require surgery. Minimally invasive surgery, or laparoscopy, has often been the preferred approach for reproductive surgery. Minimally invasive surgery offers advantages of quicker recovery, less blood

loss, and lower risk of post-operative scar tissue formation, which could itself cause infertility. At times, the effectiveness of traditional laparoscopy is limited, or more difficult to perform due to the limited range of motion of the instruments. Some difficult reproductive surgeries have required an open surgical approach, or laparotomy, which have lead to longer hospital stays, recovery times, and greater costs associated with the extended hospital stay.

The Da Vinci Robotic surgery has been FDA approved for Gynecologic surgeries since 2005, and has recently become a useful adjunct for reproductive surgeons. This surgical approach combines the advantages of laparoscopy, a minimally invasive approach, with the full range of motion that a surgeon has with more traditional, open surgeries. Surgeries that may not have been accomplished with traditional laparoscopy,

can now be offered with the Da Vinci Robotic system. Removal of fibroids (myomectomies), repairing fallopian tubes after previous tubal ligation, and severe endometriosis, are just some of the examples of surgeries that can be approached with the Da Vinci system. The wristed surgical instruments allow the surgeon to transfer natural motions of the hands to the laparoscopic instruments through small abdominal incisions with minimal invasion. The greater range of motion allows for an optimal repair of the fallopian tubes or the uterus after removal of fibroids. An improved multi-layered repair of the uterus after fibroid removal is important in preventing uterine rupture in future pregnancy. Other advantages include a 3 dimensional, magnified view 10-12 times over standard vision. This allows for more precise control of the instruments and potentially safer identification of tissue planes, blood vessels, and anatomy.

Although not all reproductive surgeries are accomplished with robotic assistance, the Da Vinci system will now offer more minimally invasive surgical options to patients that may have had to undergo more invasive open surgical procedures. The potential benefits include less pain, less blood loss, shorter hospital stay, less risks of infection, more precise repair of the uterus after myomectomy or repair of the fallopian tubes with tubal re-anastomosis, and a faster recovery time and return to normal activities sooner with the smaller, dime-sized incisions.

Dr. David W. Schmidt at the Center for Advanced Reproductive Services is certified in Robotic Surgery and is offering a full range of laparoscopic reproductive surgeries, including the Da Vinci system.

Please remember to visit our website at: www.uconnfertility.com