

# Robotic Surgery

## General Surgery...The Fastest Growing Specialty in Robotic Surgical Procedures!

### *Tomball Leads the way in the Greater Houston Area*

Tomball Regional Medical Center has become the first hospital in the Greater Houston Area to have two of the latest Da Vinci Xi robotic surgical systems in use. This doubles patient access to this highly sophisticated platform compared to other local hospitals. Dr. Harkins continues to be the most prolific user of this advanced technology. He is able to perform increasing numbers of more complex surgical cases. The winners?.....patients who are receiving state-of-the-art care from a leading expert without the need to travel out of the area.

### *Incisional Hernia Repair—Why the Robotic platform is Unparalleled in Performing Ventral Hernia Repair*

The repair of an incisional or ventral hernia using an **open technique** requires a large incision with all of the **pain and recovery delays** that go with that but the approach allows for more options to close the defect. Using **laparoscopy** results in less pain and a quicker recovery but most laparoscopists **don't close the defect**. A mesh is placed and bridged across the defect and then it is usually tacked into place. This leads to higher eventration rates and increased recurrences. Each approach has advantages but also significant disadvantages. The **robotic platform** solves the problem! It is a minimally invasive platform which gives the patients the **benefit of smaller incisions, less pain, and a quicker recovery**. With the incredible 3D HD magnified view and wristed instrument dexterity, **closing the defect and suturing in the mesh is even easier than doing this in an open approach**. The result is a platform that has the best of both of the previous approaches without the downsides. So, the problem must be the cost right?...Wrong, many major studies are showing **not just similar costs to laparoscopy but decreased costs when using the robotic approach**. Dr. Harkins stated, "For many years I have done open and laparoscopic repairs. Since I began using the robotic approach over a year ago I can comfortably say that I am now doing the absolute best incisional/ventral hernia repair I have ever done!"

### *Fastest Growing Procedure in Robotics*

Incisional/ventral hernia repairs using the robotic platform represent the fastest growing procedures in robotics. With nearly 200% year over year growth since 2012, the procedure is on its way to becoming the new standard of care. More than 17,000 incisional/ventral hernias were done in 2015. Many of the most renowned leaders in hernia repair surgery have shown enthusiastic support. Dr. Harkins has vast experience with this approach using the Da Vinci Xi system!



### **What Is "The Robot"**

The robot consists of 3 separate but interconnected parts. The "Patient Cart" (above) holds the instruments and connects to the trocars. The "Vision Cart" is similar to the laparoscopic tower. The "Surgeon's Console" is where the surgeon sits and controls the "robot".

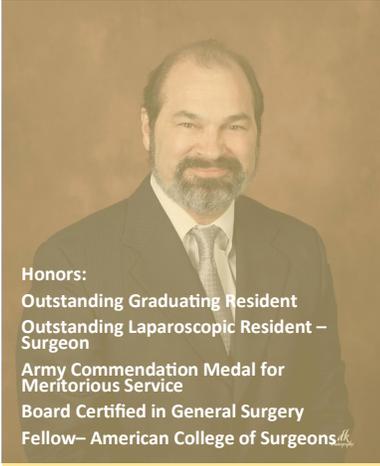
### **Why Is Robotics Better?**

- **Improved Vision!** Surgery with an HD, 3D, magnified, totally immersed view.
- **Wristed Instruments!!** This is a huge return of dexterity that was lost in laparoscopy.
- **Improved Ergonomics!** Now surgeons can sit in the same supported, comfortable position for every case.
- **FireFly Visualization!** A special dye is injected into the patient. A built in laser light is turned on. Presto! In the laser light the dye glows and now the surgeon can see incredible detail about bowel vascularity or the bile ducts right through other tissues.
- **Vessel Sealer and Stapler!** Rock stable control of these technologies allows greater precision and control in the critical use of these devices.

**M. Brian Harkins, MD, FACS**

**Training:**

LSU Medical School, New Orleans  
Eisenhower Army Medical Center,  
General Surgery 1989-1994  
Surgeon at TRMC since 1997



**Honors:**

Outstanding Graduating Resident  
Outstanding Laparoscopic Resident –  
Surgeon  
Army Commendation Medal for  
Meritorious Service  
Board Certified in General Surgery  
Fellow – American College of Surgeons

## Dr. Harkins Speaks as Surgeon Expert in Las Vegas

The “All-In” adoption of the robotic platform has “quickly” caused Dr. Harkins to be recognized as a leader in General Surgery in overall experience using the Da Vinci Xi system. Because of his success he was recently invited to be one of only 6 surgeons to attend the Intuitive Surgical World Wide Meeting. He spoke as a surgeon expert to help improve the knowledge of the attendees and to help them understand the literature, the medical and surgical facts, and the perceptions and interactions from the surgeon’s viewpoint. While he happily fielded questions from all areas he specifically focused on incisional and ventral hernias when interacting with the over 1200 attendees at the Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. He found the 4 day event invigorating and re-energizing. He stated, “It was incredibly exciting to be involved with the company that is providing the technology to take the practice of surgery to unprecedented levels of quality, precision, and improvement in patient care!”



Dr. Harkins is recognized as a world leader in experience using the Da Vinci Xi system in General Surgery.

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