Salina Regional Health Center Implements State of the Art daVinci Robotic Surgical System

(October 5, 2009) Salina Regional Health Center is now one of the few hospitals in Kansas to implement the next generation of minimally invasive surgery with the da Vinci® Surgical System. The da Vinci Surgical System combines computer and robotic technologies with the skills of a surgeon to create a new category of surgical treatment. The da Vinci allows the physician a highly-magnified, 3D view of the tissue being operated on, providing greater accuracy of the instrumentation. Procedures are more minimally invasive which translates to patients enjoying quicker recovery times, less tissue trauma at the incision sites, smaller incisions, fewer days in the hospital, and less pain at the incision site.

According to Luanne Smith, Director of Surgical Services at Salina Regional, the first surgery was performed September 29th by Dr. Ryan Payne. “The surgery went very well and the patient has been dismissed from the hospital.”

The da Vinci Surgical System is an alternative to both open surgery and traditional laparoscopy, allowing surgeons to perform even the most complex and delicate procedures through very small incisions with greater precision and superior visualization.

The surgeon operates while seated comfortably at a console viewing a 3D image of the surgical field. The surgeon’s fingers grasp the master controls below the display, with hands and wrists naturally positioned relative to his or her eyes. The system seamlessly translates the surgeon’s hand,
wrist and finger movements into precise, real-time movements of surgical instruments inside the patient.

“The view the surgeon has is amazing. The magnification is wonderful,” says Smith.

Smith also says that patients should not assume just because the word “robot” is used to refer to the technology that surgeons aren’t actually performing the procedures. The system is designed to replicate the movement of the surgeon’s hands. The system cannot make decisions, nor can it perform any type of movement or maneuver without the surgeon’s direct input. Instead it helps surgeons enhance their ability to perform complex minimally invasive surgeries.

Salina Regional is the only hospital in north central Kansas to be using the da Vinci.

“It’s just another example of Salina Regional’s commitment to providing state of the art technology to the region,” Smith says.

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