

August 1, 2007
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North Texas Hospital's Surgeons Perform First Robotic Hysterectomy in Denton County

*daVinci® Robotic Surgical System expands the surgeon's capabilities, providing a
minimally invasive option for complex procedures*

Denton, TX...August 1, 2007 – Officials at North Texas Hospital located at 2801 S. Mayhill Rd. in Denton, Texas announced today that Gynecologists John Dulemba, MD, and Joseph Valenti, MD, recently performed the first robotic-assisted hysterectomies ever performed in Denton County.

North Texas Hospital is the first healthcare facility in Denton County to acquire the *da Vinci®* Robotic Surgical Operating System. Drs. Dulemba and Valenti performed the procedures using the system which was cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in April, 2005 for gynecologic applications.

The *da Vinci®* Robotic Surgical Operating System incorporates technologic breakthroughs which provide surgeons with superior 3D visualization, improved dexterity and increased precision for the optimal performance of minimally invasive surgery. Patients undergoing surgery with the *da Vinci®* Robotic Surgical Operating System generally experience all the benefits of minimally invasive surgical procedures which include less pain, blood loss and scarring as compared to conventional open surgery. The patient's recovery is generally faster with the minimally invasive procedures.

Randy Bacus, Chief Executive Officer of North Texas Hospital stated, "In our experience, this has generally meant a better outcome for the patient. Generally, the risk of infection is reduced; the hospital stay is shorter; there are fewer complications and a faster recovery time."

North Texas Hospital's first patient to undergo robotic surgery was discharged home the day after surgery. For comparison, a patient undergoing conventional open surgery for hysterectomy may be in the hospital three or more days.

The *da Vinci®* Robotic Surgical Operating System is also widely used by Urologists to perform radical prostatectomies as well as other Urological procedures. Several Urologists at North Texas Hospital will be performing these procedures in the near future utilizing the *da Vinci®* Robotic Surgical Operating System.

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For additional information please contact North Texas Hospital, 940-220-0600, or visit our website at www.northtexashospital.com.

ABOUT NORTH TEXAS HOSPITAL

North Texas Hospital is located on the North Texas Medical Plaza campus at 2801 S. Mayhill Road in Denton, Texas. The 60,000 square foot, multi-specialty hospital hosts 12 pre-op rooms, 6 operating suites, 21 post-op rooms, 6 procedure rooms and 16 overnight suites. Other campus services include medical offices, wound care, long-term acute care hospital (LTACH), and a rehabilitation facility. For more information, visit www.northtexashospital.com.