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Each year, 54,000 Americans are diagnosed with kidney cancer and more than 13,000 die from this disease. Overall, kidney cancer is slightly more common in men and is usually diagnosed between the ages of 50 and 70 years. The most common kidney cancer is renal cell carcinoma.

Fortunately, with early diagnosis and treatment, kidney cancer can be cured. If found early, the survival rate ranges from 79 to 100 percent.
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Kidney cancer is relatively resistant to non-invasive treatments like radiation and chemotherapy. As a result, the gold standard treatment for localized kidney cancer is surgery.

Kidney surgery is traditionally performed using an open approach, which requires a large abdominal incision. Another approach, conventional laparoscopy, is less invasive but limits the doctor’s precision, visualization and control compared to open surgery.

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Treatments

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If you have been diagnosed with kidney cancer, you may be a candidate for a very effective, minimally invasive approach — da Vinci Surgery.

da Vinci Surgery uses state-of-the-art technology to help your doctor perform a more precise operation as compared to conventional surgery. It offers numerous potential benefits over open surgery, including:

- Significantly less pain
- Less blood loss & fewer transfusions
- Less risk of infection
- Less scarring
- Shorter hospital stay & recovery time
- Increased potential to preserve the kidney in certain cancer operations
- Better clinical outcomes, in many cases

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The da Vinci Surgical System is designed to provide surgeons with enhanced capabilities, including high-definition 3D vision and a magnified view. Your doctor controls the da Vinci System, which translates his or her hand movements into smaller, more precise movements of tiny instruments inside your body.

Though it is often called a “robot,” da Vinci cannot act on its own. Instead, the surgery is performed entirely by your doctor.

Together, da Vinci technology allows your doctor to perform complex procedures through just a few tiny openings. As a result, you may be able to get back to your normal activities faster — without the long recovery that usually follows open surgery.

The da Vinci System has been used successfully worldwide in hundreds of thousands of procedures to date.
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The Enabling Technology: da Vinci Surgical System

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While clinical studies support the effectiveness of the da Vinci® System when used in minimally invasive surgery, individual results may vary. Surgery with the da Vinci® Surgical System may not be appropriate for every individual. Always ask your doctor about all treatment options, as well as their risks and benefits. © 2009 Intuitive Surgical, Inc. Intuitive, Intuitive Surgical, da Vinci, da Vinci S, da Vinci Si and EndoWrist are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intuitive Surgical.

The enabling technology: da Vinci® Surgical System

The precision, vision and control of the da Vinci Surgical System allow your surgeon to provide a precise, minimally invasive treatment for kidney cancer. It may also provide your surgeon the means to preserve your kidney by removing the tumor and not the entire kidney.

Preserving your kidney can help prevent future kidney disease and even dialysis.

In certain cases, your doctor may need to remove the entire kidney. If so, he/she will enlarge one incision for removal.
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