

Hot Topics

The latest in healthcare, technology and research from UW Health



Robotic sacrocolpopexy

Minimally invasive surgical approach for women with pelvic organ prolapse



UW Health offers women with vaginal prolapse a minimally invasive, highly successful surgical treatment. Robotic sacrocolpopexy has faster recovery times and less discomfort than transvaginal or traditional open surgery. Our surgeons use the da Vinci XI robotic system to perform the procedure.

Photo: Frank Lin, MD (right), and Ashli Ellison, NP, meet with a patient at her six-week post-robotic sacrocolpopexy appointment. During the exam, the providers look for proper healing and discuss improved pelvic floor symptoms and her return to normal activities.

What is pelvic organ prolapse?

Women with prolapse frequently also notice a sense of pressure or fullness in the pelvic area or may even see or feel a bulge coming out of the vagina.

Prolapse occurs when part of the uterus, bladder or rectum drops out of place into the vaginal canal due to weakness in surrounding support structures.

Who is most likely to experience vaginal prolapse?

Women who are prone to vaginal prolapse include those who:

- Had multiple vaginal deliveries
- Gave birth to larger babies
- Experienced use of forceps or vacuum during childbirth
- Have connective tissue disorders
- Have a family history of prolapse
- Smoke

continued

How is the surgery performed?

Using our state-of-the-art robotic equipment, our team accesses the pelvic organs through five small incisions. While viewing a magnification of the operating site, they direct the movement of robotic arms and instruments to attach an FDA-approved synthetic material that extends from the walls of the vaginal canal to the lower back. This material restores the pelvic organs to their normal position and improves bladder, bowel and sexual function.

What are the restrictions following surgery?

Patients are instructed not to do any heavy lifting or engage in sexual activity for six weeks after surgery. They can resume other activities as tolerated during this period.

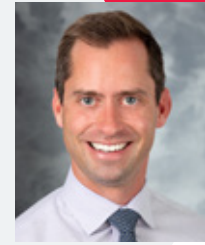
How do patients recover?

Patients go home the same day or after spending one night in the hospital. They see a nurse practitioner two weeks after surgery and have a follow-up appointment with their surgeon six weeks following surgery to ensure that the incisions healed properly.

Providers



Frank Lin, MD, MS
*Female Pelvic Medicine
and Reconstructive Surgeon
Department of Urology*



Jon Pennycuff, MD
*Female Pelvic Medicine
and Reconstructive Surgeon
Department of Obstetrics
and Gynecology*

Procedure Locations

UW Health University Hospital
600 Highland Ave.
Madison, WI 53792

UnityPoint Health – Meriter Hospital
202 S. Park St.
Madison, WI 53715

How to refer a patient:

Visit uwhealth.org/refer or call the Women's Pelvic Wellness Clinic at **(608) 263-6240**.



**School of Medicine
and Public Health**
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON