



Dr. Jennifer Hayes, D.O., demonstrates the nimbleness of the da Vinci Surgical System®.

can escalate to chronic from other ailments such as asthma and allergies. Fungus can also play a role especially in more humid climates such as Tampa Bay. After surgery, most patients see 80 percent improvement in symptoms and show an overall decrease for antibiotics.

### New Robotic Applications

The Clearwater area is leading the way in robotic-assisted surgery. The da Vinci Surgical System® brings the same skill and dexterity possessed by the artist to surgeons. The device mimics each movement of the surgeon to provide a less invasive experience.

Initially used for treatment of prostate cancer, the da Vinci System is now conquering both cancer and non-cancer gynecological surgeries. "The da Vinci allows us to spare critical nerves and does a better job at removing cancerous tumors and lymph nodes," said Dr. Tyler O. Kirby, M.D., a gynecologic oncologist at West Coast Gynecologic Oncology. "Many patients in the past that could not be treated laparoscopically can now be operated on with the da Vinci." Kirby uses the da Vinci System at Morton Plant

Mease Health Care for endometrial, cervical and early stage ovarian cancer and advises anyone diagnosed with a gynecological abnormality, especially cancer, to ask about robotics.

Dr. Jennifer Hayes, D.O., at the Visionary Center for Women agrees. "The da Vinci is everything you want surgery to be," said Hayes. "For removal of uterine fibroids (myomectomy), recovery used to be six to eight weeks. Now, patients are home the next day, up and walking around." It also allows Hayes to provide her patients with personalized surgery. Previously, a myomectomy was reserved for women wanting to have children, now it is an alternative to a hysterectomy for women who wish to keep their uterus. "It provides computerized precision with my control," said Hayes. "With any new technology it starts in one area and then switches. We used to have room size computers that now fit in our pockets."

### Vision Improvement

At Memorial Hospital, Dr. Ben Perez, M.D., of the International Eye Center, has his patients looking through a new lens and

the view is spectacular. Surgically implanted multifocal intraocular lenses (IOLs) are the latest in corrective vision. In the past, IOLs were only monofocal – repairing one distance only, but multifocal offers exactly what the name implies. After surgery, patients can see at any distance – near, immediate or far, and 92 percent of patients no longer require glasses. "This is what lasik was 15 years ago," said Perez. "Only with lasik the lens continues to change. The multifocal implant is for life and has people seeing 20/25, sometimes 20/20 the day after surgery. It really is revolutionizing the world." Designed for people suffering from cataracts and the Baby-Boomer generation



Dr. Ben Perez, M.D., surgically implants a multifocal lens for a patient at Memorial Hospital in South Tampa.