

COMMUNITY CHECKUP

A PATIENT CHECK-UP LIFE AFTER *da Vinci*.

The da Vinci robotic surgery system has made waves in the medical community and across South Lake for redefining the term “minimally invasive.” But where it’s making the biggest impact is in the lives of patients, like Linda M. of Clermont.

Linda, 48, has lived in Lake County for the last 10 years. She had been experiencing fibroid problems, and had tried a variety of medications and treatments. “At the end,” she says, “I decided I wanted to have a hysterectomy done.

“I had heard of Dr. Kristina McLean’s (OB/GYN) reputation, then learned that South Lake Hospital was doing the new robotic surgery,” she recalls. “I had never heard of it, but I did some research and was impressed and very interested.”

South Lake Hospital began offering the da Vinci Surgical System in early 2011, and is currently the only hospital in Lake County to offer it. The new surgeon-controlled robotic tool allows even complicated surgeries to be done using tiny incisions, advanced articulating tools and high-definition cameras. The benefit for both surgeons and patients has been significant.

“I’m a mother of three, with a special needs child and I home school,” Linda says. “So the better recovery time and easier recovery was extremely important to me. To have it available at my local hospital – this caliber of procedure – is just fantastic.”

SOUTH LAKE HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS CURRENTLY USING THE DA VINCI SURGICAL SYSTEM:

GYNECOLOGY

Matthew Casavant, DO
Shelley Glover, MD
Manny Herrera, MD
Andrew Karen, MD
Mary Beth Lewis-Boardman MD
Kristina McLean, MD
Jerome Sturm, MD

GENERAL SURGERY

Jason Boardman, MD
Christopher Johnson, DO

UROLOGY

Kenneth Essig, MD



With thousands of surgeries now completed through da Vinci nationwide, trends show patients return more quickly to normal activities with fewer post-surgical restrictions due to the smaller incisions and closer surgeon control. Patients undergoing gynecological, urological and many general surgeries are all experiencing better results.

“That was exactly what my experience was,” Linda says. “Within one week I was walking perfectly comfortably. Within days I was able to do most all the things I would do normally. And eight weeks out, the incision sites are so tiny you wouldn’t believe I had major surgery.

“Any surgery is scary for the patient, but knowing that there was going to be a better recovery time and less chance of complications eased my mind before surgery,” she says. “It’s a vision of the future, and to be a part of my lifetime, it’s amazing.”