

West Boca Medical uses robotics on youngest urology patient

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By Dale King



West Boca Medical Center has scored a coup in the use of its robotic surgical equipment.

Urologist **Dr. Grant I.S. Disick** recently became the first doctor in Palm Beach County to perform robotic urologic surgery on a child.

The minimally invasive surgery, called a robotic pyeloplasty, corrects a congenital malformation that, if untreated, will hinder a patient's kidney function. Dr. Disick's 17-year-old patient is the youngest to have received this procedure in Palm Beach County.

Earlier this year, Dr. Disick also performed the very first robotic pyeloplasty in Palm Beach County on an adult patient who had experienced months of chronic back pain that went undiagnosed until her kidneys were evaluated by Dr. Disick.

"This procedure is a significantly less invasive alternative to the traditional 'open' pyeloplasty, which requires a large incision over the kidney that leads to weeks of discomfort and recovery, as well as a disfiguring scar," said Dr. Disick. "Robotic pyeloplasty can be performed through a few half-inch incisions that will ultimately be barely noticeable, causes less patient discomfort, and only requires a one- to two-day hospital stay. What's more, robotic technology provides high-resolution magnification, allowing for an extremely precise repair."

Many Symptoms

Dr. Disick's young patient had been suffering from severely high blood pressure, painful swelling of her legs and had an unhealthy amount of protein in her urine, which were all a direct result of a ureteropelvic junction (UPJ) obstruction -- a narrowing of the kidney where it connects to the ureter. It can cause hydronephrosis -- a dilation of the inside of the kidney resulting from obstruction to the normal flow of urine.

If untreated, this condition can ultimately lead to the loss of a kidney.

The successful surgery was performed with the use of the Da Vinci™ Robotic Surgical System, a state-of-the-art robotic and computer-enhanced system that scales, filters, and translates the surgeon's hand movements into precise movements of the specialized micro-instruments.

"Since her release from the hospital on March 19, my patient is doing extremely well," said Dr. Disick. "I'm expecting she'll enjoy an uncomplicated recovery and will soon be back to her normal activities."

Director of Urology for the Robotic Surgery Center at West Boca Medical Center, Dr. Disick is a fellowship-trained urologist specializing in minimally invasive, laparoscopic and robotic urologic surgery. He received his medical degree from the Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston. He completed his residency training at The Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York, where he served as Chief Resident in Urology.

West Boca Medical Center, part of Tenet South Florida, is a 185-bed acute care hospital located at 21644 State Road 7 in Boca Raton. The hospital has been serving the medical and health care needs of the community and surrounding areas for over 20 years.