

# New Prostate Surgery Pioneered at Hackensack University Medical Center

BY NICOLE FERLISE

Robotic/Laparoscopic Radical Prostatectomy - the name for this new form of prostate surgery is becoming common among urologists throughout the world. Vincent Lanteri, M.D., and Michael Esposito, M.D., brought this procedure to HUMC from the Montouris Institute for Laparoscopic Prostate Surgery in Paris, where they received their training. "This new procedure has made my life. [It's] very exciting because I've been doing cutting edge surgery with cutting edge technology," said Dr. Lanteri.

The robotic/laparoscopic radical prostatectomy involves the use of a new form of technology, the da Vinci Surgical System. This FDA approved system is "deadly precise," said Dr. Esposito. Using a robot, surgeons can perform delicate operations with extreme accuracy. The three-dimensional views that the robot provides allow doctors to see more depth when performing the operation. This \$1.4 million robot helps reduce blood loss, so the doctors have a less obscure view. This is especially important for doctors when dealing with muscles.

Using the da Vinci Surgical System, doctors can now perform a new form of prostate surgery with a myriad of benefits. Traditional prostate surgery, or the standard open approach, leaves the patient with a large incision. The incisions made with the robotic/laparoscopic radical prostatectomy approach are much smaller. In addition, catheter time is much shorter; patients experience much less nerve dam-

age, an improved cancer cure rate, and zero percent blood transfusion rate. Patients often leave the hospital after just one night, compared to the three to five day hospital stay they may face with the standard open approach. "Overall, patients experience less side effects and an increased recovery speed," said Dr. Esposito.

Dr. Lanteri and Dr. Esposito have been able to teach this new method and have even worked with the company that made the robot by beta-testing it. The robot was originally designed with three arms, but Dr. Lanteri and Dr. Esposito soon became the first doctors in the United States to use the robot with four arms. Through a live telecast, Hackensack's doctors taught other doctors in California just how the operation works. Dr. Lanteri and Dr. Esposito have even been asked to proctor some cases in Germany. They have been teaching one of four courses in the field and are considered experts because of their experience. The first robotic Urologic textbook will be written by none other than, Dr. Lanteri and Dr. Esposito!

It is estimated that in 2005 over 200,000 men in the U.S. will be diagnosed with prostate cancer. One of the two ways of curing prostate cancer is through the use of radiation, which is designed to kill cancer cells. However, as technology advances, more and more men are choosing to undergo surgery. With all of the advantages that this new form of surgery has to offer, it is likely that even more will opt for surgery in the near future.