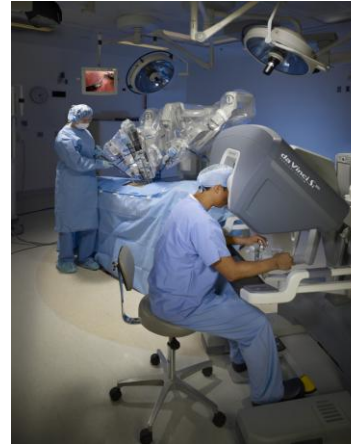




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Our patients must be given the best surgical options while in the care of Cabrini Health – it's the very least they deserve. This new robotic surgical system will help give them the best options and outcomes. But we need your help to acquire it.



Please join us in funding this new state-of-the-art surgical system by helping us raise \$2.7 million for our June Appeal

Dear Reader,

What do you expect if you or a member of your family is admitted to hospital for serious major surgery? I have no doubt that you will want the best of care, the shortest possible stay and the assurance of the most up-to-date technology, operated by the finest surgeons in their field. You will want to know that the outcomes for you as a patient will be the best they can be.

I am very pleased to inform you that Cabrini Health is about to make a significant financial investment of \$2.7 million towards extending surgery beyond the limits of the human hand. I am asking you to make a financial commitment to our June Appeal to help us acquire this highly regarded state-of-the-art equipment.

Of course I am referring to a robotic surgical system. The da Vinci Surgical System is already in use in nearly 1,000 major hospitals worldwide. Nine hospitals in Australia have this equipment and it is essential that Cabrini, as a leading private hospital in Australia, has the da Vinci system as an option for surgery.

Your gift – as much as you can give – will provide many Cabrini patients with the chance of less-invasive surgery, with faster recovery, reduced blood loss, less risk of infection, fewer complications and a shorter stay in hospital.

Let me tell you more about robot assisted surgery and the reasons why our specialists are recommending that we acquire the da Vinci robot.

Robot assisted surgery will benefit patients in four broad areas of Cabrini's work – prostate cancer, heart valve replacement, kidney surgery and gynaecological surgery. There are also plans to explore the potential of this technology for colorectal disease – an area of surgery for which Cabrini is renowned.

Colorectal Surgeon, Mr Peter Carne, agrees. *“The robot offers several advantages over standard laparoscopic surgery. Surgery on the rectum, for example rectal cancer and rectal prolapse, are conditions suited to robot assisted surgery,” he said. These indications are only just being explored, but there is every reason to believe that the advantages seen in other specialties will extend to colorectal surgery.*

The da Vinci surgical robot will expand our clinical capabilities with its exceptional 3D high definition vision, and ability to perform intricate procedures in areas that are difficult to access with conventional surgery. Surgeons are able to gain access to organs with less prospect of damage to surrounding tissues or disturbing nearby body structures.

For patients, that precision translates to less invasive and safer surgery, less blood loss, better recovery times, less pain and reduced time in hospital.

Associate Professor Simon Woods, Executive Director of Cabrini's Medical Services has been instrumental in assessing the value of the da Vinci robot for Cabrini patients.

"Robot assisted surgery adds a new dimension of precision to minimal access surgery in the most inaccessible parts of the body. The clarity of vision and precision of movement of the da Vinci surgical system exceeds that of open surgery, whilst achieving all the benefits of laparoscopic surgery in terms of reduced pain and tissue trauma and more rapid recovery."

Patients come to Cabrini because our surgeons and specialists have pre-eminence in their field of expertise, and because Cabrini has an outstanding reputation in terms of patient care and outcomes. The option of robot assisted surgery is not only important for our patients, but also to enable us to retain and attract the best specialists and surgeons. As A/Prof Woods says:

"If Cabrini decided not to proceed with the robotic surgical system, we would run the risk of our patients having to seek surgery elsewhere. Patients who have been loyal to Cabrini might choose to have their treatment at other hospitals that provide the option of robot assisted surgery. What they would be missing out on are all the other dimensions of care that Cabrini offers and for which Cabrini is so well regarded."

I want to stress that the purchase of a sophisticated piece of equipment is not the objective for Cabrini per se. Our motivation is always to have the best equipment that will ensure improved outcomes for our patients. The best equipment and facilities also assists us to attract and retain the best medical and nursing staff. Our medical specialists have no doubt that the robotic surgery system is a necessity to offer our patients. As A/Prof Woods puts it, *"Robot assisted surgery is a way of ensuring that our patients have access to the latest technology and our surgeons have the best equipment available."*

I know that as a friend of Cabrini - perhaps a present or past patient – you know how important it is for Cabrini to stay at the forefront of technological advancement for patients. When you choose Cabrini as your hospital, you want to know that we offer you the best in medical technology. **For that reason, your support of our June Appeal is critically important – we need to fund this state-of-the-art robotic surgical system and with your help, we can.**

Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Mr Randall Moshinsky, is one of our leading cardiac surgeons and performs surgery for patients with many types of cardiac conditions. Randall believes that the most exciting aspect of robot assisted surgery is the ability it gives surgeons to extend the scope of surgical care that can be delivered to patients, with significant reduction in risk, and improved outcomes.

"Robot assisted surgery allows cardiac surgeons to perform intricate surgery within the patient's heart. These procedures are performed through very small incisions. The high resolution imaging, together with the sophisticated robotic instruments, gives surgeons the ability to increase the scope of cardiac reconstructive procedures that can be performed minimally invasively."

In lay terms, the benefits of robot assisted surgery for cardiac patients are very clear: quicker recovery, less post operative pain, earlier return to full activities, and reduced risk of infection and blood transfusion.

Cabrini Urologist, Dr Daniel Moon, who has performed more than a hundred radical prostatectomies, using robotic surgery, believes the da Vinci robot is a major step forward in treatment for prostate cancer.

“The access to the depths of the pelvis, and magnification in high definition, 3-dimensional vision provides a platform for meticulous surgery around organs such as the prostate, when surrounding structures are fragile and need to be preserved. The reconstruction of the bladder and urethra can then be performed more precisely than with any previous technique”.

Similarly, Gynaecologist, Dr Tom Manolitsas believes the robot is a fantastic tool in the treatment of fibroids, female cancers, endometriosis and some types of prolapse. *“It allows more complex surgery to be conducted, in a more precise way, with better patient outcomes”* he said.

Cabrini Health prides itself on its reputation as a leading provider of healthcare to Victorians. We aim to attract pre-eminent specialists, provide a comprehensive range of hospital and medical services for our patients, and deliver the best short and long-term outcomes for patients while in our care. But to do this **we must keep pace with the most innovative technological options for our patients.**

I know it will take an extraordinary effort to raise the funds for this investment, but I also know that with the help of people like you, who have a commitment to Cabrini, we can reach our target. **This technology is available to us now** and it would be untenable for us as a major hospital and health provider not to invest in this important technology for our patients. **That’s why this request to you is so urgent. We cannot afford not to offer the option of robot assisted surgery to our patients.**

I have enclosed a separate coupon that I encourage you to complete and return in the enclosed envelope as soon as you can. **Your donation – be it large or small – is really important to us.** Please join caring Victorians, who know how important it is for Cabrini to continue the highest standards of care for our patients, in supporting this important new technology for our hospital.

Please give as generously as you can to this major appeal for Cabrini Health. We feel privileged to have friends like you, and I look forward to your positive response. Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Dr Michael Walsh
Chief Executive

PS Any patient admitted to Cabrini deserves to have the best surgical options available. Your gift to our June Appeal will **help us reach a target of \$2.7m** to enable us to purchase this state of the art da Vinci Surgical System. It is crucially important to

give the highest standard of care to our patients. I appreciate your support for this important direction in our work and hope you will give as generously as you can.

Remember, too, your donation received on or before the 30th June will be tax deductible for this financial year.

[Click here for more information.](#)