Advocate Christ Medical Center is a 695-bed, premiere teaching institution that is part of Advocate Health Care, Chicago's largest provider of health care. With more than 900 affiliated doctors, Christ Medical Center has become a recognized leader and one of the major referral hospitals in the Midwest in a number of specialties, including cardiovascular services, neurosciences, oncology, pediatrics and women's health. The hospital is a Level 1 trauma center and provides emergency care for more than 80,000 patient visits annually. Christ Medical Center was among one of the first in the country to offer eICU intensive care monitoring and CyberKnife® Radiosurgery. The hospital has received Magnet recognition, awarded by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). Magnet status represents the highest honor in the nursing profession.
Leaders in Robotic Surgery

Advocate Christ Medical Center has a long history of leading the way with minimally invasive robotic procedures. Surgeons at our Heart and Vascular Institute participated in the research and clinical trials that secured FDA approval of robotic surgery and they were the first team in Illinois to perform robotic mitral valve repair surgery.

Our exceptional open-heart surgery team performs more robotic surgeries than many other centers in the area. Despite these high volumes, Christ Medical Center consistently reports excellent clinical outcomes and mortality rates below the national average.

da Vinci® Robotic Surgical System

The da Vinci® Robotic Surgical System gives surgeons three-dimensional views, tireless robotic arms and precise movements to treat mitral valve disease, atrial septal defects and coronary artery disease. By insert surgical instruments through tiny incisions, surgeons are also able to perform complex cardiac procedures with fewer scars. The da Vinci® System also gives physicians access to areas of the body that are difficult to reach in traditional procedures.

BENEFITS OF ROBOTIC PROCEDURES

While traditional surgical procedures are very effective in treating serious heart conditions, the innovation of the da Vinci® Robotic Surgical System affords patients the same or better results. Surgeons can perform valve repairs, septal defect repairs and bypass surgeries through a few small surgical opening of the breastbone with an open procedure. Patients spend less time on a ventilator, have a lower risk of infection and bleeding, and experience a faster recovery.

Additional benefits include:
- Less pain and scarring
- Less risk of infection
- Shorter hospital stays
- Return to normal activities within a few days
- Reduced blood loss and fewer transfusions
- Improved results over traditional surgery

What Patients Can Expect

BEFORE SURGERY

- The patient meets with the surgeon, who will explain the procedure and allow time to answer questions.
- Once the patient is sedated, the physician and surgical assistants set up monitoring lines to maintain blood circulation and the delivery of oxygen.

DURING SURGERY

- One physician remains at the patient’s side during the surgery to ensure proper positioning of the robotic arms.
- A second surgeon at a nearby computer-driven console manipulates the microscopic instruments placed inside the patient’s chest.

AFTER SURGERY

- Family members will receive information about the success of the procedure and how the patient is recovering.
- Most patients are able to return home the next day and can resume normal activities fairly quickly.

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