

Kankakee OBGYN at forefront of surgical advances

Few people would think of Kankakee as a hotbed for high-tech surgery. Yet when it comes to advances in gynecological surgery, Kankakee valley OBGYN is a pioneering practice. That's because Dr. Tapan Mehta is one of just a few Illinois OBGYNs trained to use the da Vinci Surgical System, a device that's revolutionizing laparoscopic procedures.

"There are only a handful of individuals in the States doing this," Mehta said. "Intuitive Surgical [the developer] is trying to get more physicians trained. I'm on the forefront." In fact, Mehta is among the doctors training other doctors to use da Vinci.

Simply put, the da Vinci system allows doctors to do more complex surgeries in a minimally invasive way. The system combines computer and robotic technologies to provide surgeons greater visualization, flexibility and dexterity than traditional laparoscopy.

According to Mehta, da Vinci "sur-

gery has greater mobility. Traditional laparoscopy is like operating with chopsticks — there's no flexion, no rotational movements. Da Vinci allows more than 360-degree mobility. It allows us to pretend we're operating with our hands rather than chopsticks."

The advantage for patients is less pain, shorter hospital stays, quicker recovery and resumption of normal activity and better outcomes, Mehta said. Incisions typically are a half-inch to an inch in length, which makes the healing process faster. Patients who wouldn't qualify for laparoscopic procedures often qualify for surgery using the da Vinci system," he said.

"I believe this should be the new standard of care," he added emphatically.

Mehta said he's very excited to be offering this system to his patients and teaching other physicians how to use it.

"It's one additional device that allows us to take it [surgery] to the next level," he said. "The decrease in time, incision and anesthesia equals a decrease in waiting for a return to activities, recovery."

A 40-minute drive from Chicago, Kankakee OBGYN can be found at 375 N. Wall St., Suite P360. Mehta said his staff has negotiated discounts with local hotels and the hospital dining facilities for patients. His staff also provides Spanish translation.

Mehta is a graduate of Northeastern Ohio University's College of Medicine; he did his residency at Loyola University Medical Center. He is a board-certified OBGYN. His associate is Dr. Degaulle Haile, who is a board-certified OBGYN and a graduate of the University of Illinois' College of Medicine. Haile also is trained and certified in the da Vinci system.

For more information, call (815) 933-4510 or visit www.kankakeevalleyobgyn.com or www.davincisurgery.com.



Dr. Haile



Dr. Mehta



the da Vinci® laparoscopic surgical system