



22.04.2008

PRESS RELEASE

**HYGEIA: The first bypass operation in Greece
with da Vinci ® S Robotic Surgical System**

The **first coronary artery bypass graft operation** was successfully performed in Greece with the **da Vinci ® S Robotic Surgical System** in the **Diagnostic & Therapeutic Center of Athens - HYGEIA**.

In particular, a 74-year-old patient underwent a **non-hand-assisted** coronary artery bypass graft surgery **without a chest incision**. On the same day after the operation, the patient **could be transferred to the ward** (instead of the Intensive Care Unit) and **was allowed to return home after four days!!**

In Greece, the first bypass graft operation was performed with **da Vinci** surgical system in the 2nd Cardiac Surgery Clinic of HYGEIA under the direction of heart surgeon, Mr. Stratis Pattakos, in collaboration with Innsbruck Medical University Clinic under the direction of Mr. Johanness Bonatti.

During the **Press Conference** held on Tuesday, April 22nd, 2008 at HYGEIA, Mr. Stratis Pattakos, the director of the 2nd Cardiac Surgery Clinic, pointed out that: "This attempt, which turned out to be totally successful, opens up new horizons in the field of minimally invasive coronary artery surgical treatment. The results of the method as compared to its cost will be evaluated in the course of time. Congratulations to the collaborating medical personnel of the Innsbruck Medical University Clinic, as well as to the entire medical, nursing and technical personnel that took part in the operation. I would also like to congratulate HYGEIA that has invested heavily in this field as well. Individual effort has given place to team responsibility and service. This is clearly shown by this operation."

Among the benefits of this method are the preciseness of movements, the minimal blood loss, the elimination of post-surgical implications, the faster recovery and quicker return to normal activities, and the excellent aesthetic results. Today, more than 850 da Vinci Robotic Surgical Systems are used worldwide, over 150 of which operate in Europe. More than 180 systems are used only for cardiothoracic operations worldwide.

In **Cardiac Surgery**, the **Da Vinci** system is used for the following operations:

- totally endoscopic coronary artery bypass surgery
- treatment of atrial septal defect



- treatment of mitral valve

Until now, more than 12,500 cardiac surgical operations have been performed worldwide. In 2007 only, approximately 3,500 cardiac surgery operations were performed, **1,600 of which were coronary artery bypass operations**, while in 2008 the operations are expected to exceed 5,500 and more than 2,000 of them will particularly involve bypass graft surgery.