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Press Release

HYGEIA: Partial nephrectomy using the Da Vinci robotic system

The first ever procedure in Greece to remove a tumor from a solitary kidney (partial nephrectomy) using the robotic-assisted Da Vinci surgical system was successfully performed at HYGEIA Hospital.

The procedure was performed by the physicians of the 2nd Urology Clinic of HYGEIA Hospital on a 70-year-old male who in the past had undergone a total nephrectomy of the left kidney through a lumbar incision due to cancer.

The Director of the 2nd Urology Clinic, Dr. Emmanouil Panagiotou, who performed the surgery, said, "Partial nephrectomy due to cancer is usually performed through a large incision in the middle of the abdomen or the lumbar region, resulting in greater injury and pain. With robotic surgery, the kidney tumor was removed totally and with great precision from three holes measuring one centimeter each on the right side of the abdomen. As a result, the patient retained his one and only kidney. Owing to this method, no blood transfusion was necessary, the aesthetic result was perfect and the postoperative pain was minimal."

Dr. Panagiotou further noted, "Robotic-assisted kidney surgery expands the limits of urology surgery, as it increases the surgeon's capabilities and offers significant benefits to the patient. Stereoscopic vision and the use of articulating instruments offer surgeons the possibility of performing fine movements, without damaging the sensitive neighboring organs and tissues. The patient, on the other hand, has reduced blood loss, shorter hospitalization and quick return to normal activities."

Only a few specialized centers around the world can perform this specific surgery, complementing procedures such as pyeloplasty, removal of large stones from the renal pelvis, radical prostatectomy and cystectomy. Such surgeries are being successfully performed at HYGEIA for the last four years.