

## **Dr. John Blankenship – First Surgeon to Use da Vinci Robot in Athens area**

On February 27 Athena Urologist Dr. John Blankenship performed the first surgery in the Athens area that used the da Vinci Robot located at St. Mary's Hospital in Athens. Both Dr. Blankenship and Dr. Catherine Schwender are certified to use the da Vinci Robot.

Calling the new instrument a quantum leap forward in urological surgery, Dr. Blankenship says robotic surgery can be adapted to many of the surgeries performed by Athena Urology Associates, which is the medical practice of Dr. Blankenship, Dr. Thomas Oliver and Dr. Catherine Schwender.

"This procedure is a great cancer cure and reduces the side effects of alternative procedures. For example, prostatectomies performed with the da Vinci Robot have few complications from incontinence and/or sexual dysfunction in comparison to other procedures.

When using the da Vinci by comparison to more traditional methods, recovery is quicker with patients often being discharged the following day rather than having a hospital stay averaging five days."

[http://www.stmarysathens.org/about/news\\_details.php?id=192](http://www.stmarysathens.org/about/news_details.php?id=192)

<http://www.stmarysathens.org/robot/>

[http://www.onlineathens.com/stories/031110/new\\_582964142.shtml](http://www.onlineathens.com/stories/031110/new_582964142.shtml)

<http://www.gha.org/Happenings/DaVinci.pdf>

<http://www.allbusiness.com/medicine-health/medical-treatments-procedures/14087505-1.html>

[www.davincisurgery.com](http://www.davincisurgery.com)

<http://www.publish-it->

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