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## **New gallbladder surgery allows for fast recovery with little to no scarring**

*(Anderson, S.C. – April 17, 2012)* – AnMed Health patients now have a less invasive option for gallbladder removal. Using minimally-invasive, robot-assisted technology, patients can undergo a gallbladder removal in about the same amount of time as a lunch break. With the da Vinci Surgical System, patients requiring gallbladder removal can be home in time for dinner with only mild discomfort and little to no visible scar.

The surgical procedure, technically called a single incision robotic-assisted laparoscopic cholecystectomy, uses a single small incision through the patient's belly button to remove the gallbladder. The procedure is performed using a new operating platform for the da Vinci Robotic Surgical System. This system allows surgeons to reduce the number of incisions from four incisions with traditional laparoscopy to one incision less than an inch long with da Vinci.

Dr. Paul Frassinelli of Piedmont Surgical Associates is the first doctor in South Carolina to be trained in this single-site procedure. He has been performing single-site surgery at AnMed Health for several years and was the first general surgeon in the Upstate to perform robotic surgery.

"This technology has great potential," Dr. Frassinelli said. "Although I have been using single-site technology for some time, there have been compromises in the procedure that has limited its usefulness. The da Vinci system has overcome these limitations, giving me more room to operate, thus allowing better visualization, translating to safer surgery. Additionally, the da Vinci system gives the surgeon a high-definition, three-dimensional view, as opposed to the two-dimensional view that is seen with traditional laparoscopy. It is just one more step to make surgery less invasive, less difficult and safer for the patients who trust us with their health."

Doctors in the United States perform more than 1 million gallbladder removals each year. Many of these surgeries could be done using the single-site, robotic-assisted approach. Some of the reasons a person would undergo gallbladder surgery include gallstone attacks; gallbladder inflammation (called cholecystitis); pancreas inflammation (called pancreatitis) or gallbladder pain without the presence of gallstones.

AnMed Health first invested in robotic technology in 2010. AnMed Health uses the da Vinci Surgical System for a number of surgeries, including gallbladder removal, hysterectomy and sacral colpopexy.

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