

# Healthy Directions



## Magic fingers

### Robot extends surgeons' ability

**JIM YORK, OF NORTH LIBERTY**, had only one complaint after his surgery for prostate cancer: "The nurses made me walk farther than I wanted to."

York was one of the first patients to undergo robotic surgery at Mercy Iowa City. James Magera, MD, a Mayo-trained urologist, began performing the minimally invasive surgery at Mercy with the da Vinci robotic surgical system in September 2008.

"This is a breakthrough technology," says Dr. Magera. "It enhances a surgeon's ability to perform minimally invasive prostate surgery."

York's experience began when he visited his personal physician, Timothy Hunter, MD, in the fall of 2008. York says he "just plain didn't feel good," and it turned out that his PSA (prostate-specific antigen) level had doubled in a year's time. Dr. Hunter referred York to urologist James McCoy, MD.

Pretty soon York was conferring with Dr. McCoy and Dr. Magera, who had just brought his robotic surgery skills to Mercy.

"I never had two doctors sit down and talk to me at the same time," York says. "They were just terrific."

A diagnosis of prostate cancer confirmed, Jim York's surgery took place on a Saturday morning in November. Today he doesn't mind pointing out his new surgical scars: six tiny dots, compared to a long scar from a long-ago appendectomy.

"I'm very happy with everything," he says. "I would recommend this to anybody."



**"People were amazed at how quick I healed."**

—Jim York, of North Liberty

### Robots at their fingertips

Using the da Vinci robotic surgical system, the surgeon operates while seated at a console, viewing a 3-D image of the surgical field. The system translates the surgeon's hand, wrist and finger movements into real-time movements of the surgical instruments.

The robotic system allows surgeons to perform complex procedures through 1- to 2-centimeter incisions.

For information about the next public demonstration of Mercy Iowa City's robotic system, call Mercy On Call at **319-358-2767** or toll-free at **800-358-2767**.

Need a physician? Call Mercy On Call at 319-358-2767 or toll-free at 800-358-2767 seven days a week.

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