

Smaller incisions. Bigger benefits.

Robotic Surgery Offers Minimally Invasive Alternative to Traditional Thoracic Surgery

Traditionally, tumors in the chest have been removed through open surgery, a major operation with a lengthy recovery time. But now such complex surgeries can be performed with even greater precision using a high-tech treatment alternative: robotic surgery.

Cleveland Clinic cardiothoracic surgeon R. Thomas Temes, MD, FACS, MBA, at Fairview Hospital, says that robotic surgery can be an effective option. "It allows us to use a minimally invasive approach, but it also offers 3-D visualization and more sophisticated instrumentation." The 3-D technology provides a highly-magnified image of the inside of the body, which ensures greater accuracy. Additionally, the surgeon is always in control of instrument movement and placement, as the arm and wrist of the robot mimics the surgeon's precise movements. All this translates to a number of benefits for patients. Because the surgery does not require large, open incisions, patients may experience a quicker recovery with significantly less pain and, in many cases, better outcomes.

Robotic surgery is performed for many cardiothoracic conditions including:

- Lobectomy (the removal of a lung lobe) and other lung operations for the treatment of benign or cancerous growths
- Operations of the esophagus
- Biopsy or removal of lymph nodes
- Removal of tumors of the mediastinum (the area of the chest between the lungs)
- Operations on the pericardium (the membrane that encloses the heart).

The robot can also be used to treat women's health issues such as hysterectomy, and urologic issues such as prostate cancer. The technology can even be used to remove nerves to treat conditions such as sweaty hands or chronic pain.

Dr. Temes is a Cleveland Clinic cardiothoracic surgeon who practices at Fairview Hospital, the only community hospital on Cleveland's west side to utilize robotic technology in treating thoracic conditions.

To learn more about Fairview Hospital's surgical services, please visit our website at fairviewhospital.org/roboticsurgery.

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