

# Facing Uterine or Vaginal Vault Prolapse?

Learn why **da Vinci® Surgery**  
may be your best treatment option



*da Vinci* Surgery™

for uterine or  
vaginal vault prolapse

Your doctor is one of a growing number of surgeons providing *da Vinci* Surgery – an innovative surgical treatment used for select pelvic floor prolapse conditions.

*da Vinci* Surgery is setting a new standard for the treatment of uterine or vaginal vault prolapse.

For more information about  
*da Vinci* Surgery, please visit:  
**[www.daVinciSurgery.com](http://www.daVinciSurgery.com)**

## The Condition:

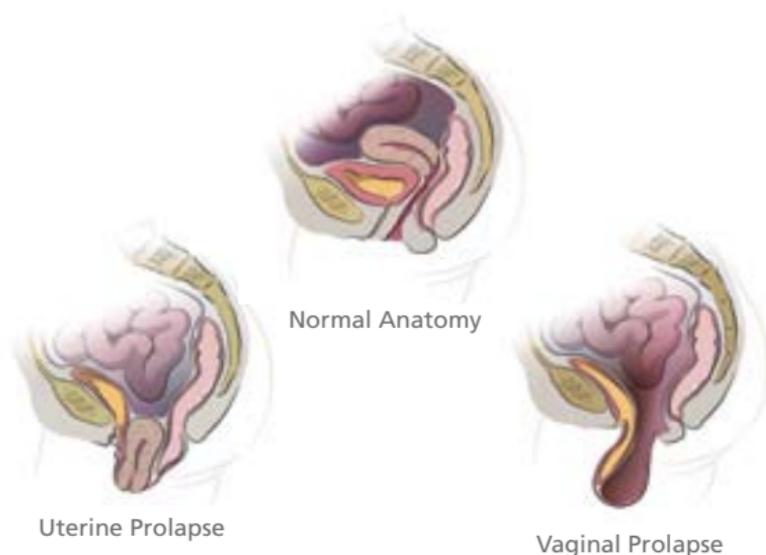
### Uterine & Vaginal Vault Prolapse

120,000+ cases of uterine and vaginal vault prolapse are surgically treated each year in the U.S.<sup>1,2</sup>

Prolapse (or falling) of any pelvic floor organ (vagina, uterus, bladder or rectum) occurs when the connective tissues or muscles within the body cavity are weak and unable to hold the pelvis in its natural orientation.

The weakening of connective tissues accelerates with age, after child birth, with weight gain and strenuous physical labor. Women experiencing pelvic organ prolapse typically have problems with urinary incontinence, vaginal ulceration, sexual dysfunction and/or having a bowel movement.

Women with moderate to severe uterine or vaginal vault prolapse can experience prolapse through their vagina (externally), as shown in the diagrams below.



## The Treatment:

### *da Vinci* Surgery for Uterine or Vaginal

Sacrocolpopexy is a procedure to surgically correct vaginal vault prolapse where mesh is used to hold the vagina in the correct anatomical position.



Sacrocolpopexy

This procedure can also be performed following a hysterectomy to treat uterine prolapse to provide long-term support of the vagina.

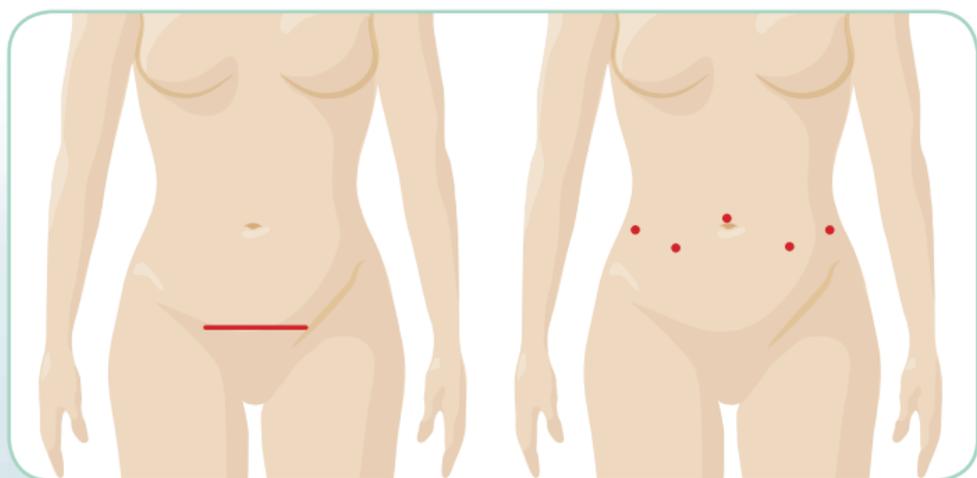


1. National Center for Health Statistics, Hysterectomy Surveillance, U.S., 1994-1999
2. Marchionni M, et al., J Reprod Med 1999; 44(8): 679-684

While clinical studies support the effectiveness of the *da Vinci*® System when used in minimally invasive *da Vinci* Surgical System may not be appropriate for every individual. Always ask your doctor about all the risks and benefits of this procedure. © 2007 Intuitive Surgical. All rights reserved. *Intuitive*, *Intuitive Surgical*, *da Vinci*, *da Vinci S* and *Intuitive Surgical*. PN 871730 Rev. A 9/07

## Vault Prolapse

Sacrocolpopexy has traditionally been performed as an open surgery. A 15-30 cm horizontal incision is made in the lower abdomen in order to manually access the intra-abdominal organs, including the uterus.



**Open Surgery  
Incision**

***da Vinci*  
Sacrocolpopexy  
Incisions**

## *da Vinci* Sacrocolpopexy: A Less Invasive Surgical Procedure

If your doctor recommends sacrocolpopexy, you may be a candidate for a new surgical procedure called *da Vinci* Sacrocolpopexy. This procedure uses a state-of-the-art surgical system designed to help your surgeon perform a minimally invasive surgery through small incisions.

For most women, *da Vinci* Sacrocolpopexy offers numerous potential benefits over a traditional open approach:

- › Significantly less pain
- › Less blood loss and need for transfusions
- › Less risk of infection
- › Less scarring
- › Shorter hospital stay
- › Shorter recovery time
- › Quicker return to normal activities

As with any surgery, these benefits cannot be guaranteed, as surgery is patient- and procedure-specific.



## The Enabling Technology: *da Vinci* Surgical System

The *da Vinci* Surgical System is designed to provide surgeons enhanced capabilities, including breakthrough visualization, precision and control.

The System translates the surgeon's hand movements on its controls into more precise movements of miniaturized wristed instruments inside the body.



These advances allow surgeons to perform complex procedures – traditionally done using large incisions – through just a few tiny openings.

Though it is sometimes called a “robot,” the *da Vinci* Surgical System cannot act on its own. Instead, every surgical maneuver performed is under the control of your surgeon.

The *da Vinci* Surgical System has been used successfully in tens of thousands of surgical procedures worldwide.

