

The NEXT GENERATION of Surgical Care

**Beebe Healthcare launches the East Coast's
preeminent robotic surgery program.**

The benefits of robotically assisted surgery are compelling; such procedures tend to have fewer complications, require shorter recovery times, and are accompanied by less pain. In fact, most patients are discharged within 23 hours, and many need no narcotic pain relief following surgery. It's also an economically efficient model of healthcare delivery for both hospitals and patients.

So it's no wonder that the award-winning Beebe Healthcare system is thoughtfully investing in such procedures. The system launched its Center for Robotic Surgery in 2018, bringing excellent, innovative, and minimally invasive surgery to patients throughout Delaware under the tutelage of Dr. Kurt Wehberg. An esteemed board-certified and fellowship-trained cardiothoracic surgeon, Dr. Wehberg recently joined Beebe as Co-Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Chief of Robotics, and Vice President of Clinical Innovation.

"Robotic surgery is absolutely more advanced and delivers improved results, and that's our goal—to decrease mortalities and increase patient satisfaction," says Dr. Wehberg, who has performed during his career thus far more than 500 robotic surgeries in addition to countless traditional cardiac surgeries.

THE DREAM TEAM

Dr. Wehberg wasn't only recruited for his surgical prowess, however. In addition to playing a critical role in the development of the center itself, he is also tasked with building a multidisciplinary dream team consisting of the absolute best surgeons, anesthesiologists, physician assistants, and nurses.

"Robotic surgery is akin to a symphony," he explains. "Each person in the room has a part to play, and they all need to play at a first-chair level. Furthermore, a huge part of our success lies in our relationships—the chemistry we have and respect we show one another. That part of the equation can be more innovative—more motivating, engaging, and impactful—than any fancy equipment."

ROBOTIC SURGERY AT BEEBE HEALTHCARE

The specific equipment used in the Center for Robotic Surgery is the da Vinci Xi® Surgical System, "the latest and greatest technology," optimized for complex four-quadrant surgery and featuring revolutionary anatomical access, crystal-clear 3DHD vision, and a platform designed to integrate future innovations seamlessly. Dr. Wehberg expects the system will be utilized in all possible surgeries in the near future—including catheterization, gynecological, and gastrointestinal procedures.

"The da Vinci Xi has the potential to diminish and even perhaps eliminate human error in the hospital setting," he notes.

The training on da Vinci Xi, meanwhile, is significant—and to be credentialed, one must master the procedures outlined in four separate phases of training. "Each phase includes simulations and builds upon the previous phases until the techniques and precision are second nature," says Dr. Wehberg.

That said, robotic surgery is not appropriate for every cardiac or thoracic condition; there are several open-heart procedures, in particular, for which traditional open surgeries are the preferred option.

"In any event, the transformation Beebe is undergoing in its healthcare delivery is incredible," Dr. Wehberg says. "The entire system is buzzing with an extraordinary energy, and I'm beyond excited to roll up my sleeves and be a part of its success."

Beebe Healthcare offers an advanced cardiothoracic surgery program as part of its comprehensive cardiac and vascular services, which include interventional cardiology, electrophysiology, vascular surgery and interventions, cardiac and vascular testing and monitoring, and cardiac rehab.

CREATING THE NEXT
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