

# Development of a Teaching Tool for Women With a Gynecologic Malignancy Undergoing Minimally Invasive Robotic-Assisted Surgery

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Women undergoing minimally invasive robotic-assisted surgery for a gynecologic malignancy have many questions and concerns related to the cancer diagnosis and surgery. The provision of information enhances coping with such illness-related challenges. A lack of print materials for these patients prompted the creation of a written teaching tool to improve informational support. A booklet was developed using guidelines for the design of effective patient education materials, including an iterative process of collaboration with healthcare providers and women who had undergone robotic-assisted surgery, as well as attention to readability. The 52-page booklet covers the trajectory of the woman's experience and includes the physical, psychosocial, and sexual aspects of recovery.

**T**he role of surgery in the management of gynecologic malignancies is well established, both as a primary treatment modality and for the purpose of staging (Langhorne, Fulton, & Otto, 2007). The laparoscopic approach was introduced as a minimally invasive technique that sought to reduce perioperative morbidity with improvements in pain and postoperative recovery (Malzoni et al., 2009).

Robotic-assisted surgery is an innovative laparoscopic procedure enhanced by the provision of a magnified three-dimensional view, the use of smaller surgical instruments, and more precise translation of the surgeon's hand movements (Bandera & Magrina, 2009; Lin, Wakabayashi, & Han, 2009). Improved outcomes of robotic surgery include a shorter hospital stay, decreased blood loss (Bogges et al., 2008; DeNardis et al., 2008; Vaknin et al., 2010; Veljovich et al., 2008) and less wound complications than with laparotomy, which is particularly salient for obese patients (Gehrig et al., 2008). Minimally invasive robotic-assisted surgery appears to be a promising mainstay in

## At a Glance

- ◆ Minimally invasive robotic-assisted surgery is an innovative treatment option for women with gynecologic cancer.
- ◆ The provision of print educational materials complements verbal teaching done by healthcare professionals.
- ◆ Developing effective written information for patients requires the involvement of stakeholders as well as attention to readability.

the treatment of gynecologic malignancies (Bandera & Magrina, 2009; Lin et al., 2009).

Minimally invasive robotic-assisted surgery has been offered in the gynecologic oncology department of a Canadian university-affiliated teaching hospital since December 2007. A need existed to create an information tool to supplement patient teaching. The purpose of this article is to describe the booklet's development.

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