

Robotic Bariatric Surgery

INFORMATION



From early 2013 we have been using the robotic technology to assist complex procedures such as Gastric Bypass.

Although the Da Vinci surgical robot has been in use in Australia for over a decade, we are the first in Melbourne to utilise the technology for bariatric procedures. We hope to emulate results from specialist centres overseas which have been outstanding.

In robotic-assisted surgery, the instruments are different and are held by robotic arms but still entirely in control of the surgeon. The robotic-controlled instruments have a much greater range of movement and level of precision compared to stand-



Advantages of a robotic-assisted approach include the following:

- **Greater flexibility and function of keyhole instruments**
- **Greater precision in movement and suturing**
- **Enhanced stereoscopic 3D view enabling better tissue definition and detail**
- **Less surgeon fatigue throughout the length of the operation**
- **Less wound trauma due to robot minimised force distribution on ports**
- **No instrument tremor**

We prefer robotic assisted surgery for *Gastric Bypass* and *Revision Bypass* procedures.

If you do not wish to have a robotic-assisted procedure please let us know. If you elect to have a laparoscopic procedure (non robotic) because of costs related to robotic surgery please be reassured that the laparoscopic approach is currently the standard employed by the majority of surgeons around the world.

Costs

The robotic technology has costs that may not be covered by all insurance companies. Please enquire at the main desk for advice regarding this. Generally speaking if your insurance company does not cover the consumables for robotic bariatric surgery then we will aim for a standard laparoscopic procedure.

Note that if you are having **revision bypass surgery** (that is, you have had a gastric band or stomach stapling be-fore) we do recommend you aim for a robotic assisted procedure if possible.

You can watch videos of robotic surgery at: https://www.anthonyclough.com.au/gastric-bypass.html
