

# An easier hysterectomy

Robotic-assisted surgery provides an alternative

For years, Melissa Torres suffered from endometriosis, a condition where tissue that normally lines the uterus is found elsewhere in the body, causing pain, heavy bleeding and infertility. The 42-year-old information technology analyst from Lake Villa needed several surgeries over the years, but recently the pain returned. “The doctors found growths that were affecting my kidneys and causing infections,” she says. “I needed a hysterectomy.”

But her previous operations had made a traditional laparoscopic hysterectomy dangerous, says her doctor, Eileen Morrison, MD, obstetrics and gynecology. “Extensive scarring left her at high risk for injury,” Dr. Morrison says. Melissa might have needed open surgery—with a large incision and long recovery time—if not for the da Vinci® surgical system.

## A BETTER VIEW ...

Surgeons who perform robotic surgery sit at a console several feet from the operating table. They look through a special viewfinder that gives them a 3-D, magnified view of the surgical site. They use special fingertip controls to manipulate their surgical instruments through a tiny incision. “This makes difficult cases like Melissa’s more feasible,” Dr. Morrison says. “This enhanced visibility and precise control of the surgical tools really made this an ideal option for Melissa.”

As with regular laparoscopic hysterectomy, robotic-assisted surgery results in less bleeding, scarring and pain; fewer complications like infection; and faster recovery. “Patients are in the hospital overnight instead of four days with an open hysterectomy, and back to work in a week or two, as opposed to six weeks or more,” says Dr. Morrison.

When Melissa learned about her robotic option, she was thrilled. “It sounded amazing,” she says. “I had already had open surgery, and that recovery was scary. I also have rheumatoid arthritis, so I heal slowly. I knew this surgery would be less risky with the easiest recovery.”

## ... AND A POSITIVE OUTCOME

Indeed, it was. Melissa had her surgery last October. “I was walking the next day and asking Dr. Morrison when I could go to the gym,” she laughs. “They actually had to tell me to slow down. Compared to my other surgeries, where it was two weeks before I could even stand up, this was great.” Melissa now works out up to

*“Patients are back to work in a week or two, as opposed to six weeks or more.”*

*—Eileen Morrison, MD*

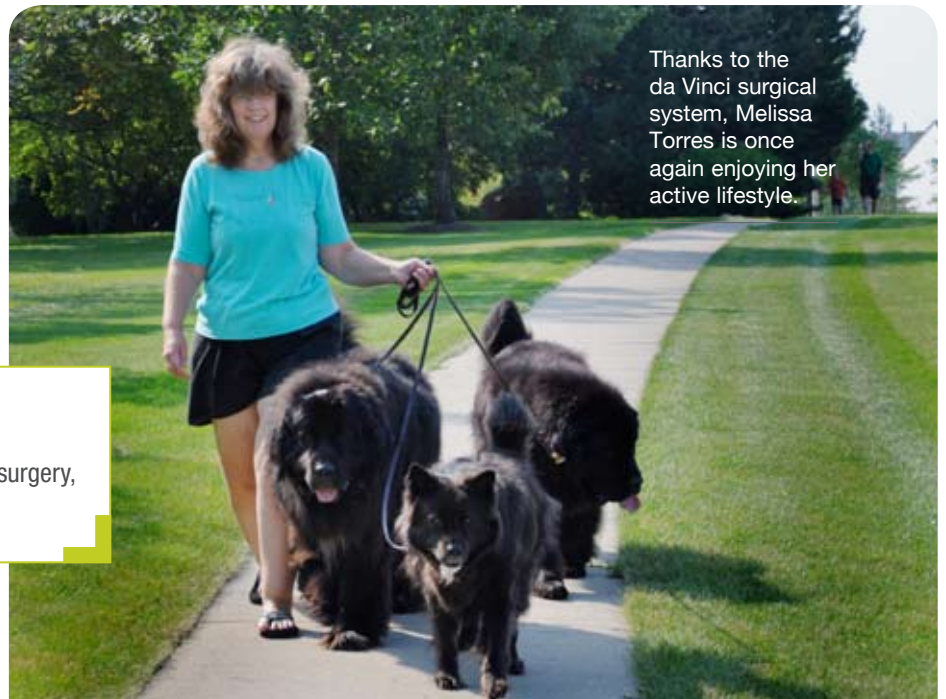
five days a week. “Robotic surgery is so much easier,” she says.

The da Vinci surgical system has been used for prostate and has recently been adopted for gynecologic surgeries, Dr. Morrison says. She’s been using it for more than a year, primarily for hysterectomies.

“Robotic-assisted hysterectomy isn’t right for everyone,” says Dr. Morrison. “But for the right cases, it’s a very good surgical tool.” +

## Learn more

For more information about robotic-assisted surgery, visit [advocatehealth.com/condell](http://advocatehealth.com/condell).



Thanks to the da Vinci surgical system, Melissa Torres is once again enjoying her active lifestyle.