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Robotics in Colorectal Surgery


Robotics is now accepted as a defined arm of minimally invasive surgery. It has grown past the developmental and investigational stage and is being routinely used in many of the surgical subspecialties. With more applications available, robotic surgery is quickly advancing in its use in the field of colorectal surgery. Robotics was pioneered by gynecologists and urologists however its utility in gastrointestinal surgery is growing quickly. These procedures can vary greatly in their degree of difficulty and complexity and although benefit is not clearly shown in simple routine procedures, there is clear benefit in selected complex cases. The benefit of laparoscopic colorectal surgery has been well defined however, it is still not uniformly practiced. Adoption has been slow primarily due to inadequately trained surgeons, lack of standardization of procedures and technical and anatomical difficulties. Robotics helps to mitigate these disadvantages by facilitating an easier dissection, increased vision and even decreasing surgeon fatigue during lengthy operations. With the advent of robotics, it is expected to see more patients benefiting from minimally invasive colorectal surgery as more surgeons become experienced with this platform. There are however limitations to the adoption of robotic colorectal surgery. These include

higher costs, increased operating times, ability to train surgeons competently and a lack of data proving its superiority. The plausible benefits are promising and more research is needed before it becomes the standard of care

Speaker Biography

Dr. Donkor specializes in general and bariatric surgery. He has extensive training in robotic and laparoscopic surgery for general and bariatric procedures. Dr. Donkor completed a double major in Chemistry and Biochemistry from The University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, and obtained his medical degree from SABA University School of Medicine. He completed his surgical training at the University of Miami, Jackson Memorial Hospital and Columbia University at Harlem Hospital, NY. Dr. Donkor then went on to complete a rigorous minimally invasive and Bariatric surgery fellowship at the prestigious Baptist Health MIS and Bariatric Surgery program in Miami. His clinical interests are Robotic Surgery, Weight loss surgery, Single Incision Gallbladder surgery, Minimally Invasive Hernia and antireflux Surgery, Colon Surgery for diverticulitis and cancer, Gastric cancer surgery and Breast Surgery. Dr. Donkor is Board-certified in general surgery. He is a member of the American College of Surgeons, the Society for Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons, the International Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association and the American Medical Association. He is also the author of several medical journal articles on surgical techniques and has given many presentations and lectures on robot-assisted surgery. Dr. Donkor prides himself in delivering thoughtful, caring and compassionate care with the utility of state of the art technology.

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