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## AnMed Health Hospital unveils surgical robot

By Liv Osby • Staff writer • February 18, 2010

AnMed Health is the latest hospital in the Upstate to offer surgery with a da Vinci robot.

Robotic surgery is popular with doctors because it offers enhanced visibility, agility and precision. For patients, it means smaller incisions, less bleeding, shorter hospitalization and quicker recovery times.

During an operation, small incisions are made in the abdomen for the robot's four arms. They hold tiny instruments and a camera that provides a magnified, three-dimensional view for the surgeon who maneuvers the instruments using controls at a console across the room from the operating table.

The first surgeries were performed last week, said hospital spokeswoman Heidi Charalambous. And while the \$2 million robot is being used for hysterectomies and removing cancerous prostate glands now, it may be expanded to other surgical procedures, she said.

Approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 2000, there are hundreds of da Vinci Surgical Systems, manufactured by Intuitive Surgical Inc. of California, around the country today.

Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System has had one since 2007, and Bon Secours St. Francis Health System got one in 2008. Greenville Hospital System hopes to get one this year.

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