

# Pioneering spirit

## Cancer patient agrees to robotic-assisted surgery in investigational trial of MIRA

**T**his August, Michael Jobst, MD, FACS, of Surgical Associates was the first to perform a colon resection procedure using a two-pound miniaturized robotic device that was developed on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Innovation Campus. Dr. Jobst did the surgery at Bryan Medical Center as part of the Food & Drug Administration's investigational trial for the Miniaturized In vivo Robotic Assistant Platform, or MIRA for short.

Robotic-assisted surgery options have grown dramatically over the last two decades. Robotic surgeries tend to offer benefits to patients, including shorter hospital stays, reduced pain, smaller incisions and faster recovery times. Because of this, demand for minimally invasive surgeries with robotics continues to grow.

Currently, most robotic surgeries rely on one device, which is expensive and requires a dedicated operating room because of its size. Many smaller hospitals can't afford this or don't have room to house the equipment.

"MIRA is a much smaller device that's a lot easier for the OR team to handle," says Dr. Jobst. "So, it may be a more feasible option for hospitals and communities."

Virtual Incision, the company that makes MIRA, was co-founded by University of Nebraska faculty Shane Farritor,



***Allen Voss is back to his woodworking and welding projects after a successful surgery at Bryan. Dr. Michael Jobst performed the world's first colon resection using the MIRA platform.***



## LATEST ADVANCES

worked for a fertilizer outfit, he helped a company improve the functionality of their high-boy sprayers. So, when Dr. Jobst described the MIRA as a new tool for a surgery he's done many times, Allen felt comfortable with trying it out.

Dr. Jobst says he was well prepared for the first-ever use of the MIRA system.

"I spent hours in what we call a 'dry lab' learning how to control the device," he explains.

"I started with simple tasks, such as moving pegs around a board, and I then moved on to dissecting chicken breasts and chicken thighs. I spent many hours in the lab doing simulated surgeries before the trial began. It was an extensive process, but the end result was my complete confidence in both myself and MIRA."

### **GREAT RESULTS**

Allen says he was pleased with his outcome.

"It was perfect. I had very little pain, and even when I went home I had very little pain," he says. He was in the hospital for a few days, and spent a little more than a week recovering at home.

"Allen recovered very quickly," says Dr. Jobst. "When compared to open colon resection patients, his hospital stay was half as long and his post hospital recovery took about a third of the total recovery time. When compared to conventional, non-robotic laparoscopy, his length of stay and time to full recovery were similar or slightly better."

For medicine to advance, Dr. Jobst recognizes the vital

role that patients and their trust play in the process.

"I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to Allen and the other patients who trusted me and gave their consent to participate in this investigational trial," he says. "To enroll in a study like this one is truly an act of generosity to science and the ultimate display of trust in a surgeon, and I am truly grateful." ■



***Dr. Michael Jobst visits with Allen Voss, the world's first patient to benefit from the MIRA surgical system from Virtual Incision.***



***To see robotic surgery in action and learn more from Dr. Jobst about how it works, go to [bryanhealth.org/robotic-surgery](https://www.bryanhealth.org/robotic-surgery).***

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