Dr. Robot

On December 23, 2010, a 72-year-old Haifa resident suffering from prostate cancer makes medical history twice.

He is the first patient in the OR at Rambam to have undergone a prostatectomy by means of a sophisticated $2.6M robot, and the first patient in Israel to be operated upon by the world’s leading surgeon in the removal of prostate tumors – Dr. David Samadi.

Among robotic prostate surgery’s advantages are fewer infections, no danger of hemorrhaging, and a reduced risk to male sexual functioning.

Dr. Samadi, 43, is considered the world’s leading expert in robotic surgery due to his having carried out well over 3,000 operations with the assistance of the da Vinci Surgical System. A Persian Jew whose family left Iran at the time of the Islamic Revolution, he was educated in Europe and in the United States. Today, he is Chief of Robotics and Minimally Invasive Surgery at the Mount Sinai Medical Center School of Medicine in New York City. He has become a well-known personality in American households by virtue of his role as a medical consultant on the Fox Networks.

Rambam’s next step will be to construct a Clinical & Research Robotics Center, which will bring together on the Rambam campus our physicians and Technion Faculty of Biomedical Engineering scientists for joint laboratory bench studies that will eventually translate into innovative, safety enhanced clinical options for surgical patients.

Acquisition of the da Vinci Surgical System has been made possible through the generosity of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, the Wolfson Family Foundation, the Iranian American Jewish Federation of New York, the Crown Family Foundation, Fred and Nader Gheibshaim, Alan C. Mondelson, M.E. and Sol Baric, Sonalla Adeyipo, and George Feldenkraus.

The integration of robotic systems with medical procedures has revolutionized the operating room by enabling physicians to perform highly complex, delicate and precise, minimally invasive surgical procedures.
“I am very proud and privileged to be part of this groundbreaking news in Israel. This first robotic prostate surgery has been completed with success. This collaboration between me and Rambam represents a special bond.”

DR. DAVID SAMADI | Chief of Robotics and Minimally Invasive Surgery
Mount Sinai Medical Center School of Medicine, New York City