

Editorial

Robotic surgery is now mushrooming very fast in developed country including India. The introduction of the da Vinci robotic surgical system has led to a continuous discussion about the cost-effectiveness of its use. More needs to be done to reduce the cost of Robotic surgery in developing country. The robot's "EndoWrist Instruments" have a high degree of dexterity, allowing surgeons the ability to operate in very tight spaces in the body that would otherwise only be accessible through open surgery which requires large incisions.



The use of the robotic system is costlier, to justify its use the outcomes for patients should be improved. The robotic system is particularly useful in difficult to perform laparoscopic surgeries, which are easier to perform with the da Vinci system due to improved three-dimensional vision, ergonomics, and additional dexterity of the instruments. Even though robotic procedures have proven to be highly precise and targeted, the expertise, infrastructure and referrals by other doctors is minimal hindering the development of robotic surgery in India.

Insurance companies should also come ahead and start paying the robotic surgery bill. Several developed countries have passed laws to address this problem, at least in some circumstances where robotic surgery has definite advantage over conventional laparoscopic surgery. In country like India still insurance company has not started paying the bill of robotic surgery. Indian Patients don't prefer to undergo robotic surgeries mainly because there no insurance cover for it.

World Association of Laparoscopic Surgeon (WALS) is very much concerned about these issues and we have started generating letters to pressurize our Government and insurance company to pay for the robotic surgery. We have so far made possible with 6 major insurance company and they have started paying the robotic bill especially for diseases where Robotic surgery has definite advantage. We hope that by the end of year 2018 almost all the insurance company will start paying the robotic surgery cost and our Government will also take initiative make some law so that the patients of developing country like India will be benefited more and more with advantages of Robotic Surgery.

We hope that with the help of all the members of WALS we will be able to solve this issue soon and we will make robotic surgery more popular in developing country.

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