



and care were their top priority. I felt my care was tailored to my specific needs. When complications arose, the response was based on my condition, not a cookie-cutter approach.”

Lorberbaum believes that the combination of patient-focused care and state-of-the-art technology makes AdventHealth Gordon a valuable asset to Gordon County and the surrounding region.

“As a manager of a large, worldwide business, I recognize well-run operations and talented staff, and AdventHealth has a strong, professional team running the hospital and caring for patients,” he said. “By being treated in a community hospital, I received a faster and more thorough evaluation, which led to diagnosing the problem and quickly beginning treatment. In emergency situations, having leading-edge health care available within your community is critically important.”

While having the da Vinci Xi is a distinct advantage for hospitals like AdventHealth Gordon and AdventHealth Redmond, such technologies are only as good as the men and women operating

them, according to Dr. Lee. After all, it’s the surgeon’s hand movements that bend and rotate the instruments in real-time during the procedure. The surgeon is in control of the robot at all times.

“The key to a successful robotic-assisted surgery is the experience and proficiency that is gained through extensive training,” Dr. Lee said. “It is also crucial to have a team of robotic-trained nurses, anesthesiologists and technicians to assist the surgeon throughout the procedure.”

Dr. Lee was AdventHealth Gordon’s first physician to be trained and certified in robotics. Within both his six-year urology residency and his two-year urologic oncology fellowship, he received specialized training in minimally invasive surgery in laparoscopy and robotic surgery.

“I was lucky Dr. Lee was in Calhoun,” Lorberbaum said. “It’s amazing that in this community we have someone with Dr. Lee’s skills and experience. He could be at any of the top hospitals in the world.”

For more information about robotic surgery at AdventHealth Gordon, please call 706-602-7800 ext. 4052.

In Good Hands

Robotic Technology Offers Multiple Advantages for Surgery Patients

For five years, Calhoun resident Mary Ellen Van Horn lived with two different obstructions in her right ureter, the duct connecting her right kidney to her bladder. She put off surgery as long as she could, but when the temporary stents that had been placed in the ureter shifted, the ensuing complications and pain prompted her to finally deal with the problem surgically.

Van Horn was admitted to AdventHealth Gordon, where she underwent a corrective procedure on December 6, 2021. The surgery was performed by Hak Lee, MD, with the da Vinci Xi robotic-assisted surgery system.

“It was a very serious surgery. I could have lost that kidney,” Van Horn said. “Dr. Lee didn’t know if I would lose it or not until he got in there, but with the robotic procedure, my recovery time would be better.”

Fortunately, Van Horn’s operation, which involved severing and rerouting the obstructed ureter, was successful.

“I bounced back pretty fast. I was walking that afternoon,” she said. “I was in the hospital for four

days, and the pain management there was great. I was driving again in two weeks.”

Patients undergoing robotic surgery also benefit from nurse navigators who work closely with each patient and their family members every step of the way, from scheduling to discharge and beyond.

“Once they’re at home, I call and check on our patients almost daily for several weeks to ensure they are healing properly and getting back to normal as quickly as possible,” said Hannah Holland, RN, Dr. Lee’s nurse navigator. “Dr. Lee strives for above-average outcomes by closely monitoring and following each patient, and my main goal is to treat our patients like they’re family, not just a number.”

Van Horn found such connection points to be invaluable during the recovery process.

“Hannah called me several times a day, and I could call her anytime I needed her,” Van Horn said. “I even called her on a weekend, and she contacted Dr. Lee and then got back with me really fast.”

