

Harold Alan Welles

ABOUT HAROLD ALAN



PATIENT NAME: Harold Alan Welles IN THIS STORY:

LOCATION: Kansas AGE: 67

OCCUPATION: Education

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HAROLD ALAN'S SITUATION

MY RELATIONSHIP TO DA VINCI SURGERY: Patient

MY CONDITION: Prostate Cancer

TYPE OF PROCEDURE I HAD: *da Vinci* Radical prostatectomy

DATE OF PROCEDURE: Jan 18, 2007

MY SURGEON: [Dr. Justin Albani](#)

HOSPITAL WHERE MY PROCEDURE WAS PERFORMED: [Liberty Hospital](#)

WHY HAROLD ALAN CHOSE DA VINCI SURGERY

OTHER TREATMENTS I CONSIDERED BEFORE DA VINCI SURGERY:

None

THE BIGGEST CONCERNS I HAD ABOUT TREATMENT:

Pain and recovery time

WHY I CHOSE DA VINCI SURGERY:

My physician

ABOUT HAROLD ALAN'S SURGERY EXPERIENCE

HOW LONG I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL:

1 1/2 days

MY PAIN AND/OR DISCOMFORT LEVEL:

Not much

WHEN I RETURNED TO NORMAL ACTIVITIES:

10 days

ABOUT MY SURGEON AND/OR FACILITY STAFF:

Excellent

HOW DA VINCI SURGERY COMPARED TO MY PREVIOUS EXPERIENCES OR PRECONCEPTIONS OF SURGERY:

It was like having a wart removed.

I WOULD RECOMMEND DA VINCI SURGERY TO MY FRIENDS OR FAMILY MEMBERS!

HAROLD ALAN'S FULL STORY

In December of 2006, my PSA spiked a lot. Since there was history in my family (a brother who had his prostate removed in 1994), I agreed with my doctor that surgery was the best and probably only choice. I was scared.

I had had a long conversation with my brother about his bout with prostate cancer. His surgery was invasive, so invasive. He had a scar from his navel and went from there to, well I guess you probably know where to. He was in surgery for about 4 hours, give or take, and then had a two day stay in the ICU. After the ICU he spent 5 more days in the hospital. He had a lot of pain even with the epidural. Consequently, he also had a lot of pain medications. When he got home, he had a catheter for 5 weeks. He was incontinent for a few months after that and got used to wearing pads. He also had to endure radiation, with its own set of pain and discomfort problems. He never got back to "normal." Pads became the normality.

So, I was scared. It crossed my mind that maybe the prognosis of the cancer might be easier to endure than surgery. It was thoughts of my children and grandchildren, who I wanted to see grow up, which pushed the "no surgery" out of my mind. Those thoughts occurred before I met with my doctor. It was then that I learned about the da Vinci Surgical System.

I entered the hospital on the morning of the surgery. I was taken to the operating room about 9:00am. I was out of the operating room before 11:00am, even though, due to my own fault, there was a slight complication. So I was kept overnight in the hospital instead of being able to go home that afternoon. I have 6 small scars on my abdomen. They are almost gone now. I had some pain medication, but little or no real pain. I wore a catheter for six days. I wore pads for two weeks before I got control again. The recommended exercises worked just fine. I now have the [urinary] stream of a 10 year old (one of the unmentioned benefits of the surgery for those who have suffered from an enlarged prostate.). I was back on my motorcycle 10 days after the operation, and a month later I rode that bike from Kansas to Cleveland to see the Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame. But best of all, my grandchildren still give me hugs.