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## Theatre expansion complements training at RPA

Renovations to theatre 14 in Royal Prince Alfred Hospital mean Sydney Local Health District remains at the forefront of robotic surgery. The facelift is the final link between the RPA Surgical & Robotic Training Centre and the Institute of Academic Surgery.

Robotic surgery specialist Dr Scott Leslie said the new theatre was expanded to house the sophisticated da Vinci Xi surgical robot, assisting specialists to continue performing complex procedures in cardiothoracic, urology, gynaecology and colorectal surgery.

“The larger theatre is helpful as the robot is quite large and now we have a lot more space for the anaesthetist, surgeons and nurses in the theatre,” Dr Leslie said.



The team ahead of a procedure in the new theatre.

As part of the expansion, the theatre also received an integrated Table Motion that enables the da Vinci Xi Surgical System to reposition the patient while the surgeon operates.

“The table allows us to provide immediate patient repositioning during the procedure and enables us to have better access and angles of the patient during the surgery.

Stella Pillai, RPA’s operating theatres Nurse Manager said the new theatre also has the ability to live stream video, allowing medical students and trainee surgeons to immerse themselves in the procedure in real time.

“The new theatre is digitally linked with the training lab and Kerry Packer Theatre for educational purposes so that when we hold symposiums, lectures or live surgeries, we can relay that to live audiences,” Ms Pillai said.

While the nips and snips are performed by robot arms, Ms Pillai said it’s the team of humans operating the equipment that makes robotic surgery a good choice for many patients.

“It’s a team effort,” she said. “The dynamic theatre complements the latest in surgical technology which is combined with the team of specialists, surgeons, nurses and anaesthetists who provide patient centred care.