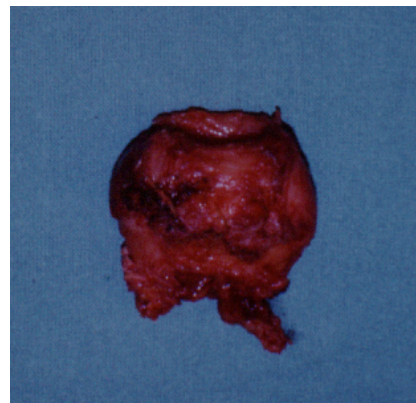
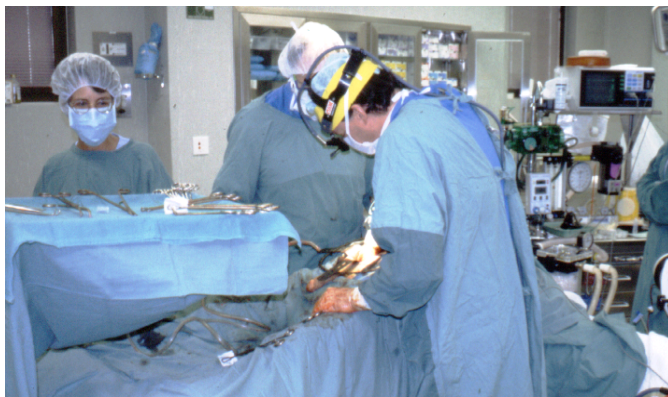


## Radical prostatectomy

A radical prostatectomy is an operation to totally remove the prostate gland in an attempt to cure localised prostate cancer. The operation is performed as either an open procedure through a lower abdominal incision or laparoscopically, usually using the da Vinci robot. The prostate is removed by dissecting it from the bladder neck and urethra, avoiding the erectile nerves when possible, joining the bladder neck to the urethral stump and leaving a catheter for about a week. Laparoscopic surgery usually allows a shorter hospital stay and quicker convalescence but does not necessarily give better cancer control, continence rates or potency preservation.

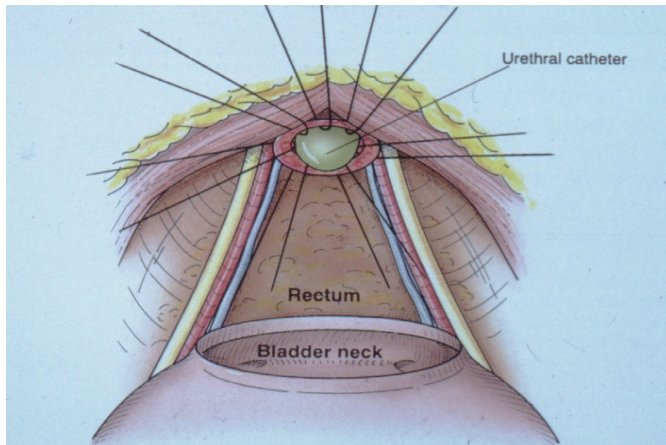
A variable period of convalescence is required afterwards and the particular issues are urinary control and erectile function. A degree of urinary incontinence at least in the early post-operative period is common and it is not uncommon for men to experience at least minor stress incontinence long term. A small percentage of men have more significant ongoing incontinence and require further treatment. Erectile dysfunction as a result of damage to the erectile nerves is frequently seen. Erections may improve with time, be helped by medical therapy or require implantation of a penile prosthesis.

By 6 weeks after the operation, the serum PSA (prostate specific antigen) should have fallen to an unrecordable level if there is no residual disease and should stay unrecordable.



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Robotic da Vinci prostatectomy

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