Your doctor is one of a growing number of surgeons offering da Vinci Surgery to treat endometriosis.

All surgeries, including da Vinci Surgery, involve risk of major complications. Before you decide on surgery, discuss treatment options with your doctor. Understanding the risks of each treatment can help you make the best decision for your situation.

For more information about da Vinci Surgery and to find a da Vinci Surgeon near you, visit: www.daVinciSurgery.com

The Condition:
Endometriosis
Endometriosis is a condition in which the tissue that lines the uterus – the endometrium - also grows outside the uterus. This tissue, called implants or lesions, is found most often in the pelvic area, but in rare cases, develops in other parts of the body. Normally, the endometrium sheds each month during a woman’s period, but implants stay in place.

Endometriosis is usually diagnosed between ages 25 to 35 but can occur anytime during a woman’s reproductive years – menstruation through menopause. Endometriosis is very common, affecting five percent of the female population of reproductive age. Family history plays an important role; a woman who has a mother or sister with endometriosis is six times more likely to develop the condition. Many women have no symptoms, but for others, endometriosis can cause irregular bleeding, infertility and pain. Mild to severe pain is the most common symptom, which may include pain during periods, intercourse and bowel movements, and pain in the lower back or abdomen.

For more information about da Vinci Surgery and to find a da Vinci Surgeon near you, visit: www.daVinciSurgery.com
The da Vinci Surgical System is designed to provide surgeons with enhanced capabilities, including HD-3D vision and a magnified view. Your doctor controls the da Vinci System, which translates his or her hand movements into smaller, more precise movements of tiny instruments inside your body. Though it is often called a “robot,” da Vinci cannot act on its own - the surgery is performed entirely by your doctor.

Together, da Vinci technology allows your doctor to perform complex procedures through just a few tiny openings. As a result, you may be able to get back to your life without the usual recovery following major surgery.

The Enabling Technology: da Vinci Surgical System

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The Treatment: Endometriosis Resection:

Depending on how severe the symptoms are, treatment options for endometriosis may include lifestyle changes, medication to control pain, medication to control endometriosis growth, or surgery. For women suffering from severe symptoms, there are two surgical options to treat endometriosis. Endometriosis resection involves removing all visible implants while leaving the uterus and other organs in place. Endometriosis resection is usually recommended for women who want to get pregnant in the future. Hysterectomy involves removing the uterus and possibly other organs. It is often recommended for women who are not planning a future pregnancy.

Endometriosis resection and hysterectomy can be performed using traditional open surgery or minimally invasive surgery (laparoscopy).

Open surgery typically involves a long incision and lengthy recovery. Traditional laparoscopic surgery, performed through a few small incisions, has the benefit of being minimally invasive. However, it can present challenges during complex or delicate procedures due to the long-handled, rigid instruments used.

Fortunately, there is a minimally invasive treatment for endometriosis designed to overcome the limits of both open and traditional laparoscopic surgery. da Vinci® Endometriosis Resection: A Less Invasive Surgical Procedure

If your doctor recommends surgery to treat endometriosis and its symptoms, you may be a candidate for minimally invasive da Vinci Endometriosis Resection.

Using state-of-the-art technology, da Vinci Surgery requires just a few tiny incisions. The enhanced vision, precision, dexterity and control of the da Vinci System allows your surgeon to perform a more thorough removal of deeply penetrated or widespread endometrial implants. da Vinci offers patients many potential benefits over traditional laparoscopy, including:

- Low blood loss
- Low conversion rate to open surgery
- Low rate of complications
- Short hospital stay
- Minimal scarring

Every surgery is unique to each patient and procedure, therefore results cannot be guaranteed.

While clinical studies support the effectiveness of the da Vinci Surgical System when used in minimally invasive surgery, individual results may vary. There are no guarantees of outcomes. All surgeries involve the risk of major complications. Before you decide on surgery, discuss treatment options with your doctor. Understanding the risks of each treatment can help you make the best decision for your individual situation. Surgery with the da Vinci Surgical System may not be appropriate for every individual, and may not be applicable to your condition. Always ask your doctor about all treatment options, as well as their risks and benefits. Only your doctor can determine whether da Vinci Surgery is appropriate for your situation.

To learn more, please visit the following websites:

- Bioscience.org: Available from: http://www.bioscience.org/books/endometriosis/end01-33.htm#3