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77-year-old cancer patient undergoes robotic surgery

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KOCHI: Cancerous tumor in a 77-year-old woman was removed using robotic surgery in a private hospital in the city. Chemotherapy was ruled out as the woman who had undergone chemotherapy at the age of 74 when she was first detected with cancer, will not be able to withstand it.

In 2014, when she was 73, she had undergone chemotherapy. However, the fight was not over just yet for the patient as there was a recurrence of ovarian cancer that was detected during a follow up check up in 2017.

At age 77, chemotherapy was no longer an option and surgical removal of the tumor was the only option left. The patient was apprehensive and reluctant about the surgery given her previous experience, which was not a very encouraging. That's when Dr Anupama R, Clinical Professor, Gynaecologic Oncology, Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences suggested robotic surgery. This case was discussed in the multidisciplinary tumor board and all doctors agreed that robotic surgery would be the best option for the patient. The affected area was completely removed using robotic assisted surgery, da Vinci Surgical System.

"The advantage of using robotic surgery is the short, sometimes unimaginable, recovery period is shorter than routine laparoscopic procedure. However, robotic technology with its better vision and small and precise instruments helps the surgeon perform complicated surgeries with minimum tissue damage since oncologic surgeries are more complex than routine

gynecologic surgeries. The use of robotic surgery translates into shorter hospital stay, lesser fatigue and faster recovery for the patient. Additionally, the duration of the surgery on an average is 1 to 2 hours," said Dr Anupama.

In countries like the United States and UK, robotic surgery is being offered even for routine procedures and slowly even India is catching up. Robotic surgery was introduced at Amrita Hospital in January 2015.