BJ Bowie Appreciated Faster Recovery Time After Robotic Hernia Repair by General Surgeon Paul Riggs, MD, FACS

When BJ Bowie needed a hernia repaired, there was no question where he wanted to go for care. He didn’t realize the surgery could be done robotically; he didn’t know his operation would take place in MHP’s new patient care wing; he only knew the people who would be caring for him.

“I went to school with Dr. (Paul) Rigg’s youngest son. I remember being at a birthday party when we were in elementary school and seeing a large portrait of a surgeon and nurses standing over a patient in his dining room,” BJ recalled. “Just behind the surgeon stood Jesus and that memory has always stayed with me.

“I know what Dr. Riggs believes and I respect him for it. I know he’ll do the best he can with his God-given talents and I take comfort in knowing who he is.”

BJ was no stranger to a hernia; he had one about eight years ago that was repaired with an open surgery. “I didn’t realize I had a hernia but after surgery there was no denying it, the recovery was hard!”

BJ was off work for five weeks with his first surgery, remembering it was at least three weeks before he felt he could do normal day-to-day activities. “I do not like depending on other people and, unlike my first surgery, this time around I have two young kids at home who like to jump around and wrestle with their dad.”

Dr. Riggs explained to BJ that his recovery from this hernia repair would be a lot easier because he was going to perform it with the da Vinci Surgical Robot. “With the robot, we are able to use much smaller incisions and the instruments give us broader range of motion and more precise movements.

“The internal approach used with a robotic surgery results in less pain for patients and a shorter recovery time,” Dr. Riggs explained. “BJ was an excellent candidate for robotic hernia surgery. The activities of the procedure and the final outcome are the same whether the procedure is done laparoscopically or robotically, but the recovery for the patient is much easier and faster with robotic methods.”

“I didn’t know much about robotic surgery and just assumed I would have the same terrible recovery I had last time,” BJ shared. “It hurt to move, cough, sneeze or do anything!

“This time, I was so relieved when I was feeling better and ready to help with every day activities at home after just five days!”

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Look us up on the web: mahaskahealth.org
It’s been an exciting year for MHP Surgical Services and no one has benefited more than our patients.

In November 2015, MHP added a da Vinci Xi Surgical System, the most advanced surgical robot currently available. The addition of robotically-assisted surgery to MHP’s state-of-the-art facilities and top ranked staff was a natural step.

MHP’s General Surgeons Drs. Paul Riggs and Tim Breon, along with OB/GYN Specialist Dr. Jeffrey Fowler, utilize the da Vinci robot to assist with surgical procedures including hysterectomy, vaginal prolapse and hernia repair, to name a few. All of these surgeons continue to offer traditional surgical methods including open and laparoscopic. They practice fulltime at MHP, along with Orthopaedic Surgeon Dr. Sreedhar Somisetty and Podiatrist Dr. Mark Beers.

When new technology is added, it requires tremendous staff commitment to learn new skills and processes designed to utilize the technology to its full potential while keeping our patients safety and well-being at the forefront. The MHP Surgical Services team met and exceeded this challenge, which is evident by the “Excellence in Patient Care” award they received in August from the Studer Group. This outcomes-based firm works with healthcare organizations throughout the United States to achieve exceptional clinical, operational and financial results.

The award was directly based on feedback anonymously submitted by patients interacting with Surgical Services staff during their care at MHP. In order to be considered for an award in this category, an organization must rank in the 90th percentile or higher for overall patient satisfaction.

To cap off this banner year, General Surgeon Dr. Tim Breon was recognized as one of 10 Iowa Hospital Heroes by the Iowa Hospital Association. Dr. Breon was nominated based on his everyday actions that have an extraordinary impact on his patients and the community he serves. From the family meetings he is considered for an award in this category, an organization must rank in the 90th percentile or higher for overall patient satisfaction.

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I couldn’t be more proud of the national recognition MHP Surgical Services received for demonstrating outstanding performance in patient care! It truly takes a team effort to make the types of changes that result in the outcomes that are recognized by this award.

MHP has an exceptional team of nurses, physicians and employees in a wide variety of support roles who consistently deliver excellent patient care. One of the team members is General Surgeon Timothy Breon, who is one of 10 people in Iowa to be named a 2016 Iowa Hospital Hero.

Dr. Breon exemplifies integrity, courage and commitment to this community and all patients from throughout the region. He truly embodies what it means to be a general surgeon in a rural community. In addition to the amazing relationships he cultivates with patients and staff, Dr. Breon has also been instrumental in taking our health system to the next level.

As a healthcare organization, we work diligently to make the hospital a better place for patients to receive care, employees to work and physicians to practice medicine. The real winners of this dedication are our patients.

MHP enjoys great support from our community, including a strong volunteer program that enhances so many aspects of our patient’s experiences. Our Hospital and Hospice Auxiliaries are groups of volunteers dedicated to fundraising, who are strong advocates for community involvement.

The Mahaska Hospice Auxiliary supports hospice services in the patient’s home and at the MHP Hospice Serenity House. They recently held a sold-out “Downton Abbey Dinner and Style Show” event that raised more than $13,000. What an incredible evening that people are still buzzing about! I want to thank all those who continue to support us in any way as we strive to make healthcare personal for you.

Message From the CEO

Jay Christensen  |  Mahaska Health Partnership CEO