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New technology speeds healing from colorectal surgery

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Technology has changed Dr. Avraham Belizon's approach to surgery. He is now doing the majority of his colorectal operations using the minimally invasive, state-of-the-art da Vinci surgery system.

The system has been shortening hospital stays, causing less postoperative pain and lowering insurance and medical costs, its users say.

Belizon is a specialist in laparoscopic and colorectal surgery for Minimally Invasive Surgical Associates of South Florida, located at 4675 Linton Blvd., Ste. 200.

One of the patients who has benefited from the technology is George Poyer, a [Delray Beach](#) resident since 1985 who was having a bit of discomfort in his side for about a year.

"I felt the pain from time to time," he said. "It was a pain in my side that I ignored."

After a visit to his regular doctor, Poyer was referred to Belizon.

"Long story short, Dr. Belizon had to remove a foot of my colon due to inflammation from diverticulitis," Poyer said. "I didn't know this, but I was later told I could have died. It's scary, because I never thought the pain to be a big deal. I didn't understand the seriousness.

"I now have three belly buttons," he joked. "I'm doing very well, and the healing was quick and easy. Because he used the da Vinci surgery robotics, I had less time in the hospital. I only spent three days at Delray Medical Center. I was fully recovered in three weeks, and the cost was much lower than it would've been just a year or two ago."

Poyer, 80, is retired from Florida Atlantic University, where he served as director of communications. He is a World War II veteran and has resumed his active lifestyle now that the operation is behind him. "I'm recovered and can still play ball," he said. "I'm feeling pretty good."

Belizon uses the da Vinci surgery system to do about two operations a week at Delray Medical Center.

"Robots are more accurate with better results," he said. "It's less rehab time, less blood loss and less pain for patients."

Belizon uses the robotic technology for colon and rectal cancer cases. The da Vinci surgery system was first used by urologists and gynecologists, but has been employed recently in gall bladder surgeries and by colorectal pioneers like Belizon, who went through a one-year fellowship in which he was trained to use the system by Intuitive Surgical.

Belizon travels nationwide a few times a month to discuss the device with other doctors and help train them in its use.

For more information, visit <http://www.floridacolondrectaldoctor.com> or call Minimally Invasive Surgical Associates of Florida at 561-495-0660.

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