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Press Release - 12 May 2009

The 1000th robot-assisted prostate surgery in the OLV Clinic Aalst-Belgium

On Tuesday 12th of May Alex Mottrie, MD (Urologist) performed his 1000th case of robot assisted radical prostatectomy for prostate cancer in the OLV-Clinic, Aalst, Belgium.

In 2001 Alex Mottrie was among the first doctors in Europe to perform a robot-assisted radical prostatectomy. The OLV Clinic Aalst was the first hospital worldwide who used the robot for reimplanting of the ureter, vasovasostomy and the use of the robot for the treatment of bladder cancer.

The department of Urology of the OLV Clinic can certainly be called center of excellence in robotic surgery. The organisation of the "Master Class in Robotic Prostatectomy" last week in Brussel proves this excellent reputation and outlines his status as training center in this type of surgery. More than 150 urologists from 12 different countries participated in this interactive course.

The incidence of prostate cancer is growing worldwide. Approximately 10% of European men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer sometimes in their life. One of the most common treatments for prostate cancer involves the surgical removal of the prostate gland, known as radical prostatectomy. Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) allows physicians to perform many kinds of major surgery with a variety of benefits for the patient: less trauma and pain, minimal scarring, faster recovery and shorter hospital stays. Surgeries are performed through small incisions, which replace the large incisions needed for conventional open surgeries. *da Vinci* Prostatectomy incorporates a state-of-the-art surgical system that helps your surgeon to see vital anatomical structures more clearly and to perform a more precise surgical procedure

The OLV Clinic Aalst has for the moment two Da Vinci Robots. They are currently used in the department of Urology, Gynecology and cardiac Surgery.

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