

MAKING EVIDENCE RELEVANT

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This bulletin is published by Health Quality Ontario ([HQO](#)) to update you on the work of its Ontario Health Technology Advisory Committee ([OHTAC](#)), Evidence Development and Standards ([EDS](#)) branch and research collaborators.

Questions and comments

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March 2013

HQO Participates in Ontario's First Robotic Surgery Retreat

Robotic surgery is a revolutionary health care tool that is growing exponentially around the world, particularly in the United States where it is routinely utilized. Robotic surgery is mostly used for prostate surgery in men and hysterectomies in women, though it can be employed in other operations, including heart procedures or surgery in sensitive head and neck areas. In Ontario, robotic surgery has been available for more than five years, funded primarily through philanthropic sources.

In February 2013, the first Ontario Robotic Surgery Retreat was held at the MaRS Collaboration Centre in Toronto. It brought together key stakeholders and clinicians to discuss the effectiveness of robotic surgery, the sustainability of robotic programs and professional responsibilities related to training and credentialing. The retreat provided a forum for developing a collaborative plan of action for robotic surgery in the province.

Jennifer Fergenbaum, a clinical epidemiologist with Health Quality Ontario's Evidence Development and Standards branch, presented the results of the organization's evidence-based analysis (EBA) on [Robotic-Assisted Minimally Invasive Surgery for Gynecologic and Urologic Oncology](#).

Following a review of the EBA, OHTAC made several recommendations, including a request for a field evaluation of robotic surgery for gynecologic and urologic cancer. Preliminary results of the field evaluation were presented at the retreat by Dr. David Urbach, a scientist with the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) - one of HQO's research partners. Final results are expected to be presented to OHTAC in May 2013.

Find out more about the use of robotic-assisted minimally invasive surgery in the [Ontario Health Technology Maps Project](#).