The Children’s Hospital Los Angeles/University of Southern California Pediatric Robotic Surgery Program is the only dedicated pediatric robotic surgery program in California, and the largest in the southwestern United States. Children’s Hospital is affiliated with the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California (USC) and is one of the few children’s hospitals that provides advanced minimally invasive surgery for children.

Robotic surgery using the da Vinci Surgical System from Intuitive Surgical allows surgeons at CHLA to perform minimally invasive reconstructive procedures with tiny keyhole incisions, through the use of 3-D visualization, intuitive computer-enhanced motion control and increased range of motion.

**Benefits include:**
- Smaller incisions
- Shorter hospital stays
- Decreased postoperative pain medication requirements
- Improved cosmetic appearance after surgery

**Robotic surgery is used for:**
- Ureteropelvic junction (UPJ) obstruction — pyeloplasty
- Vesicoureteral reflux (VUR) — ureteral reimplantation
- Kidney reconstructive surgery, including partial nephrectomy
- Ureter reconstructive surgery
- Bladder reconstructive surgery
- Pelvic organ removal and reconstruction

Patients are discharged home sooner than with open surgery (usually after only one night in the hospital), and they require fewer pain medications than children who underwent open surgery.1

Surgeons at Children’s Hospital have performed more than 200 robotic surgeries on children, making the program one of the most experienced centers for pediatric robotic surgery in the U.S. The program also serves as a pediatric robotic surgery research and training center for pediatric surgical specialists.

Pediatric robotic surgeons at Children’s Hospital include chief of the Division of Urology, Roger De Filippo, MD; Andy Chang, MD; Steve Kim, MD; Scott Sparks, MD; and Paul Kokorowski, MD, MPH, who serves as the director of the Children’s Hospital Los Angeles/USC Pediatric Robotic Surgery Program.

“**When Dr. Kokorowski showed me the pictures of the previous surgeries and I saw that the incisions were so small ... I was so happy with the results.”**—Parent of child who had robot-assisted kidney surgery at CHLA

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Robotic Surgery Research Publications from Children’s Hospital


About Children’s Hospital Los Angeles

Children’s Hospital Los Angeles is one of only 12 children’s hospitals in the nation—and the only hospital in California—to be named to the elite Honor Roll of children’s hospitals by U.S. News & World Report for 2015-16. The magazine ranks CHLA’s Division of Urology among the top 10 pediatric urology programs in the country. Founded in 1901, Children’s Hospital is acknowledged worldwide for its leadership in pediatric and adolescent health. CHLA is also home to The Saban Research Institute, one of the largest and most productive pediatric research facilities in the United States, and is one of America’s premier teaching hospitals, affiliated with the Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California since 1932.