The Children’s Hospital Los Angeles/University of Southern California (USC) 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 USC, and is one of the few children’s hospitals that provide advanced minimally invasive surgery to children for their pediatric surgical conditions.

Robotic surgery using the da Vinci Surgical System from Intuitive Surgical allows the pediatric robotic surgeons at Children’s Hospital to perform minimally invasive reconstructive procedures in children. The 3-D visualization, intuitive computer-enhanced motion control and increased range of motion allow for delicate surgical procedures in children to be performed with tiny keyhole incisions.

The benefits of robotic surgery 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
- Cholecystectomy—gallbladder removal
- Nissen fundoplication—esophageal reflux 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 use less pain medications than children who underwent open surgery.1

Surgeons at Children’s Hospital have performed more than 200 robotic surgeries in 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 pediatric urologists Andy Chang, MD, Roger De Filippo, MD, Steve Kim, MD, and Chester Koh, MD, who serves as the director of the Children’s Hospital Los Angeles/USC Pediatric Robotic Surgery Program, as well as pediatric surgeon Cathy Shin, MD, and pediatric gynecologist Claire Templeman, MD.


About Children’s Hospital Los Angeles
Children’s Hospital Los Angeles is one of only 11 children’s hospitals in the nation—and the only hospital in California—to be named to the elite Honor Roll of children’s hospitals in the U.S. News & World Report rankings for 2011-12. Founded in 1901, Children’s Hospital is one of the nation’s leading children’s hospitals and is acknowledged worldwide for its leadership in pediatric and adolescent health. Children’s Hospital Los Angeles 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.