

Mayo Clinic Minute: Advancing pancreatic cancer treatment with total robotic Whipple surgery

New technologies are improving [pancreatic cancer treatment](#), offering hope to patients facing one of the least survivable forms of cancer. The [Whipple procedure](#), a complex surgery for localized pancreatic cancer, can now be done robotically.

[Dr. Zhi Ven Fong](#), a Mayo Clinic surgical oncologist, says innovations in technology allow surgeons to do this highly complex operation in a minimally invasive way. And that helps the patient. Dr. Fong explains what happens during a total robotic Whipple procedure.

Video	Audio
	The Whipple procedure involves removing the head of the pancreas, part of the small intestine, gall bladder and bile duct.
Zhi Ven Fong, M.D. Surgical Oncology Mayo Clinic	"With the robotic approach, we believe that the incisions are smaller, the recoveries quicker and less pain."
	During surgery, Mayo Clinic's Dr. Zhi Fong looks into a 3D camera while guiding the robot from a console.
	"It provides me a three-dimensional image of the actual patient's abdomen through the camera."
	Dr. Fong can then control the robotic arms that perform the intricate procedure.
	The robotic surgery may take longer than traditional surgery, but it offers additional advantages.
	"Shorter length of stay, and less long-term wound complications."
	He says the best candidate for the surgery depends on the person and the cancer.
	"Typically, patients have a lower BMI and the pancreatic cancers that don't involve the main visceral vessels that passes through the pancreas."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Joel Streed.