



## Robotic surgery proves better option for public system prostate patients

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ROBOTIC surgery gives prostate cancer patients better health results, reduces their hospital stay and can save the health system money.

Not only did men who had the robot-assisted surgery (pictured) have their hospital stay cut, they did not require blood transfusions and were less likely to need follow-up cancer treatment.

The Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre study, comparing the results of more than 5000 men in the Victorian public hospital who had robotic or open surgery between

2010-2013, found the surgery could also be cost-effective.

Robotic surgery director Associate Professor Declan Murphy said the surgery was common in the private health system but it had remained out of reach for public patients until 2010, when Peter MacCallum received the robot device through a donation.

The research found 15 per cent of the men who had traditional surgery required a blood transfusion, but none of the 284 men who had the robotic surgery required one.

The patients who had conventional surgery were also

more likely to require additional cancer treatment.

The findings, presented to the American Urological Association annual meeting overnight, also looked at whether robotic surgery could be cost-effective.

