

# Robotic thyroidectomy using a transaxillary approach can be performed by experienced surgeons in selected surgical clinics

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We read the article by Kang et al. [1] entitled Robot-Assisted Endoscopic Surgery for Thyroid Cancer: Experience With the First 100 Patients with a great interest. These authors emphasized that robot-assisted endoscopic thyroid operations using a gasless transaxillary approach is a feasible, safe, and effective method for selected patients with thyroid cancer [1].

However, this robotic approach has several disadvantages. The surgeon must be experienced before performing the robotic operation. This new technique needs a da Vinci Surgical System, and its set of instruments requires excessive time. Moreover, the procedure may not be suitable for removing large thyroid tumors. Management complications due to this new technique may require additional neck incisions and thus a longer operation time due to the narrow surgical area with transaxillary approach.

Consequently, robotic thyroidectomy with a transaxillary approach is not a simple method. It can be performed by experienced surgeons in selected surgical clinics.

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## Reference

1. Kang SW, Jeong JJ, Yun JS, Sung TY, Lee SC, Lee YS, Nam KH, Chang HS, Chung WY, Park CS (2009) Robot-assisted endoscopic surgery for thyroid cancer: experience with the first 100 patients. *Surg Endosc* 11:2399–2406

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