

Robotic Nipple Sparing Mastectomy

What is a nipple sparing mastectomy?

A nipple sparing mastectomy (NSM) is a surgical procedure performed to remove the breast tissue either for treatment of breast cancer or as a preventative measure for patients who may be at risk of developing breast cancer. During an NSM operation, all of the breast tissue is removed, but the overlying skin, nipple, and areola are left intact. This surgical advancement is successful in the treatment or prevention of breast cancer for appropriately selected patients. It also provides patients with a more aesthetically pleasing outcome. After consulting with Dr. Chagares, he will determine if you may be an appropriate candidate for this procedure.

How has robotic surgery changed breast cancer treatment?

Robotic surgery has become increasingly popular in many surgical fields. Robotic surgery can be performed by surgeons who have completed specialized robotic surgical training. This advanced technology allows surgeons to operate with increased precision, flexibility and control. Robotic procedures require smaller incisions than traditional operations. Robotic surgery is now being incorporated into the field of breast surgery, offering patients the option of having a robotic nipple sparing mastectomy (RNSM). During a RNSM, Dr. Chagares will utilize a robot to assist him in dissecting and removing breast tissue.

What are the benefits of a robotic nipple sparing mastectomy?

- RNSM is a safe and effective procedure that can be performed for the treatment of breast cancer or as a preventative measure to reduce the risk of breast cancer.
- A significantly smaller hidden incision is created on the side of the chest wall during a RNSM compared to a traditional NSM, resulting in no scars on the breast at all.
- The breast skin, nipple, and areola remain intact, allowing patients to maintain the natural appearance of their breast.
- Patients can safely choose to undergo immediate breast reconstruction following an RNSM to restore breast shape and volume.
- Research has found that patients who have undergone RNSM report high rates of satisfaction and experience minimal complications.

Who can perform a robotic nipple sparing mastectomy?

As mentioned above, surgeons must complete specialized robotic surgical training before they are able to utilize this technology on patients. Surgeons who specialize in breast surgery can perform a number of surgical procedures for the treatment or prevention of breast cancer, including a nipple sparing mastectomy. Only surgeons who have completed specialized training in robotic surgery and breast surgery are able to safely offer patients the option of having a robotic nipple sparing mastectomy. There are very few doctors around the world who offer this advanced procedure.

Dr. Stephen Chagares has over 20 years of experience providing comprehensive breast care. He is experienced in robotic surgery and has trained at The European Institute of Oncology in Milan under Dr. Antonio Toesca who pioneered the RNSM technique. Dr. Chagares is currently the only breast surgeon in the United States who is able to perform a robotic nipple sparing mastectomy for his patients.