REPORT: NEW ROBOTIC SURGICAL SYSTEM

Date: February 12, 2026

Location: San Carlo Hospital

Research Team: Robonova

Interviewees: Dr. Patrizia Aloè, Eng. Mastrodonato

Interviewer: "Good evening, we are from the Robonova team. We are here to ask a few questions about this project. First, what were the needs that led the hospital to introduce the robotic surgical system?"

Dr. Aloè (Administrative Manager): "The need started from the desire to modernize our technology. Since we had the opportunity to receive funding, we invested in this type of robotic surgery. This technology allows us to improve patient recovery times, which are now much shorter. It also allows a surgical technique that is less invasive than traditional methods."

Interviewer: "What administrative steps did you follow to bring these innovations to the department?"

Dr. Aloè: "Since this is a complex and expensive project, we must follow national laws. These laws force us to use public tenders instead of buying directly. We use an 'open procedure' managed by the *Stazione Unica Regionale* (Regional Procurement Agency). They handle the purchase of technology and services above a certain price limit. In this case, since the cost was over 2 million euros, we had to work with them to ensure maximum transparency and to reach international competitors. For this reason, the tender was published in both the National and the European Official Gazette."

Interviewer: "From an organizational point of view, do you think this is speeding up operations and reducing waiting times?"

Eng. Mastrodonato: "Yes, waiting times are much shorter with this technology. Moving from open surgery to laparoscopic surgery means it is much less invasive for the patient. People can return to their normal activities much faster because the incisions are smaller and the recovery is very quick."

Interviewer: "Was it necessary to create new job roles to support this innovation? If yes, which ones?"

Eng. Mastrodonato: "Actually, it was not necessary to create new jobs. The companies that produce the technology usually provide support to the medical staff. Their internal experts

come directly to the operating room for information sessions and training. They help the doctors learn how to use the technology, so we did not need to hire extra staff."

RoboNova with DaVinci Robot: Meetings with Dr. Falabella, Dr. Di Marino.

Date: February 21, 2026

Location: San Carlo Hospital

Research Team: Robonova

Interviewees: Dr. Falabella, Dr. Di Marino, General Director Giuseppe Spera.

Interviewer: "In which types of surgeries do you use this kind of robotic technology, and what advantages does it offer compared to traditional surgery?"

Dr. Falabella: "Almost all general surgery procedures can be supported by robotic techniques. The main advantages are related to non-invasiveness, which we already had with laparoscopy. Robots clearly allow us to support even the most complex cases of the latter. Furthermore, patient hospital stays are much shorter."

Interviewer: "What are the main risks, limits, or contraindications of using robotic surgery for these types of procedures?"

Dr. Falabella: "The risks are the same as those of complex surgery. Certainly, a high level of expertise from the surgeon and their team is fundamental. Because this is a very complex type of surgery, it is necessary to perform these operations only after long training and preparation."

Interviewer: "How much time is needed to gain real mastery of robotic surgery?"

Dr. Di Marino: "Studies have been conducted on this. For example, let’s look at robotic radical prostatectomy, which is the most performed robotic procedure in all of surgery. It has been calculated that it takes about 20 procedures to gain basic mastery of the operation and 50 procedures to become autonomous. These times are different compared to open surgery, where over 100 procedures were needed to achieve absolute autonomy."

Interviewer: "How many people are needed in the team for an operation?"

Dr. Di Marino: "The robotic surgery team consists of the primary surgeon at the surgical console and another surgeon at the operating table to assist the console surgeon and to manage any urgent or emergency situations that might occur during the operation."

Meetings with General Director Giuseppe Spera

Date: February 21, 2026

Location: San Carlo Hospital

Research Team: Robonova

Interviewees: General Hospital Director

Interviewer: "How was the idea of introducing robotics into the hospital born, and what are the resulting advantages?"

General Director: "The idea came from the fact that technology is increasingly important for medicine in every field in diagnostics as well as in treatments and therapy. In this case, the robot is the latest innovation to push surgical precision even further. This is because the robot's hands robotic ones, obviously, can perform different and much wider movements compared to a surgeon's hands. Also, because the invasiveness is lower, it allows for more conservative, less destructive procedures with a faster recovery and enormous precision."

Interviewer: "What is the new training plan for surgeons and nursing staff?"

General Director: "Training is very important and does not only involve surgeons but the entire surgical team: surgeons, anesthesiologists, operating room nurses, healthcare assistants (OSS), and technicians. In this case, training covers not only professional skills but also competence in using the equipment. This includes all precautions for starting the system, checks, and preparing the surgical field that includes the robot. Therefore, training expands toward the correct use of technology within the operating room."

Interviewer: "How is medical-legal responsibility managed in case of an error during a robotic operation?"

General Director: "Medical-legal responsibility is a very important sector in medicine today because legal action against hospitals is increasing, often due to talk about 'malpractice.' Therefore, all hospital facilities are insured for any event that might occur during surgery or any treatment. Robotics does not have particular issues regarding legal responsibility because it certainly makes surgeries more precise, reducing the margin of error. It is clear that, alongside the use of the robot, very advanced training is required; surgeons must have certifications to use the robot to prevent errors caused by a lack of skill from the operator."