

New technique preserves kidney function, downsizes large cancers, treats kidney cancer

Urologist uses chemotherapy and robotic surgery to treat bilateral large tumors

B-Roll Log

0:05 to 0:26 Photos of Patricia Cruz (Courtesy: Patricia Cruz)

0:26 to 0:57 Scans of Cruz's kidney tumors

0:57 to 1:49 B-Roll of Cruz and Dr. Lee

1:49 to 2:04 Exteriors of Banner – University Medical Center Tucson

2:04 to 2:11 Interior of operating room at Banner – University Medical Center Tucson

2:11 to 2:41 Dr. Lee and surgical team using da Vinci Xi Robotic Surgical System

2:46 to 4:56 Sound bytes with Benjamin Lee, MD, the chief of urology at Banner – University Medical Center Tucson (log below)

5:01 to 6:05 Sound bytes with Patricia Cruz, kidney cancer survivor (log below)

Sound Bytes Log

[[SOT Benjamin Lee, MD, Banner – University Medical Center Tucson]]

"The one on the right was about the size of a football; the one on the left was about the size of a grapefruit."

[[SOT Benjamin Lee, MD, Banner – University Medical Center Tucson]]

"She was told she'd have to have surgery on both kidneys, likely have to go onto permanent renal failure, have to progress onto dialysis. I thought to myself, 'We can help her.'"

[[SOT Benjamin Lee, MD, Banner – University Medical Center Tucson]]

"One of the innovative factors that was performed at the Arizona Cancer Center here at Banner – University Medical Center Tucson was to downsize and shrink the tumor using tyrosine kinase inhibitors prior to robotic surgery."

[[SOT Benjamin Lee, MD, Banner – University Medical Center Tucson]]

"Robotic partial nephrectomy then was able to salvage 50 percent of the kidney on the left side and 50 percent of the kidney on the right side. In combination with the tyrosine kinase inhibitor, that then shrunk the tumors small enough to preserve the kidney and, therefore, we avoided having the risk of dialysis and were able to save kidney function."

[[SOT Benjamin Lee, MD, Banner – University Medical Center Tucson]]

"When we cleared the infection from the stone and cleared the stone, we then used the tyrosine kinase inhibitor to shrink the tumors so that we could save 50 percent of the left kidney and then staged it—let the kidney recover—and then treated the right kidney, as well."

[[SOT Benjamin Lee, MD, Banner – University Medical Center Tucson]]

"In the last 10 years, the application of robotic surgery for kidney cancer has grown significantly."

[[SOT Benjamin Lee, MD, Banner – University Medical Center Tucson]]

"We can shrink that tumor in order to save the kidney. Our job is urologists are really to save the kidney and minimize those risks of dialysis."

[[SOT Patricia Cruz, Patient]]

"I got a sharp pain on my right side really sharp, and it lasted for about an hour. I threw up from the pain."

[[SOT Patricia Cruz, Patient]]

"Everything happened fast."

[[SOT Patricia Cruz, Patient]]

"The initial diagnosis was very scary."

[[SOT Patricia Cruz, Patient]]

"He made me feel so at ease, and he explained everything in great detail and just made me feel very comfortable."

[[SOT Patricia Cruz, Patient]]

"They had prescribed some narcotics, and I didn't even have to take those."