

that of being "in an Imax theatre". With more degrees of movement than human hands as well as a third arm, the robot provides a much more accurate alternative to open surgery, according to Dr Kooner.

"In general patients recover much better and faster, they're in much less pain, there is less risk of infection, fewer complications, and faster return to urinary continence and sexual function", said Dr Kooner.

Despite the obvious benefits of robot assisted surgery, he stresses that the robot is only as good as its operator. "It doesn't matter how many cases you've done, when you're operating you treat each patient individually. You have to be meticulous. It's the combination of theatre and ward nursing staff, the anaesthetists and the bedside surgeon – we're all meticulous in our work. Putting it all together, the care you get at St Vincent's results in excellent patient outcomes".

Craig and Jadis Blurton would agree. Based in Hong Kong but originally from New York, when Craig was told he had prostate cancer and would need radiotherapy, he sought a second opinion. He and wife Jadis started researching options in Hong Kong, the US and Australia, until they found St Vincent's in Sydney.

"I feel very fortunate that we came here because what they told me in Hong Kong was very different," said a relieved Craig Blurton who despite having a complicated case, was also discharged from hospital just two days after surgery, no radiotherapy needed. While feeling a little sore, Craig was amazed at how well he felt the day before flying back to Hong Kong, sure in the knowledge that he had been armed with all the information he needed to ensure a full recovery, thanks to Dr Kooner's treating medical team.

The Zomers and the Blurtons aren't the only patients seeking robotic assisted surgery at St Vincent's, which is fast becoming a hub of excellence for the procedure. There are many more examples just like these, testament to St Vincent's reputation of excellence in the field of Urology and prostate surgery. And it is little wonder, when we have teams of experts who are not only world-class leaders, but passionate about their work, passionate about building the reputation of St Vincent's and most importantly, completely dedicated to the welfare of our patients.

"We do our very best to make our patients and their partners feel comfortable and hopefully they understand that we have a genuine concern for their wellbeing. We as a team, strive to provide the highest possible standard of care. Each member of the team gives 100 percent," said Dr Kooner. ☺