

Tune in to Twitter surgery

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Social media will mix with medical fact today as Middle Tennessee Medical Center will use Twitter to post photos and

updates of a hysterectomy surgery as it happens at the new MTMC at around 11 a.m.

Dr. Brad Chesney, an OB/GYN and robot-certified physician at MTMC, will be performing the procedure with the

daVinci Surgical System. Karen Alwell, Chesney's patient and a Murfreesboro resident, is the first patient chosen to have her surgery posted on Twitter.

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"I know that social media is a great way to reach out to the community," Chesney said. "(The patient) has a great, optimistic attitude, and she's as excited about the technology as I am."

Alwell is a breast cancer survivor who elected to have the robotic total hysterectomy due to the reduction of probability that her cancer will reoccur, or become ovarian cancer.

"I'm very confident about the surgery," Alwell said. "I know I am in good hands with Dr. Chesney and feel very blessed to have him as


my physician. I know this surgery is for me and I'm very excited."

Robyn Reese, with MTMC's Public Relations department, will be in charge of tweeting the surgery, beginning with pre-operation prep. Angie Boyd Chambers, who heads the public relations office, will also be involved in the tweets, to allow a variety of viewpoints.

"We will be shooting photos, from when Karen arrives and we take her back and throughout the surgery," Reese said. "All of the tweets will be picture posts."

The surgery will be conducted with the daVinci Surgical System, which is operated

How to watch



To follow MTMC's live surgery today, log on to Twitter and follow YourMTMC. Live posts will appear beginning around 11 a.m. at twitter.com/yourMTMC or search #livewithMTMC.

by a surgeon sitting a few feet away from the patient at a console. Using a high-powered camera, the surgeon guides the arms of the robot that holds surgical tools which are inserted into the patient through small, key-

hole-sized incisions.

The daVinci's highly accurate instruments allow the surgeon to move his own hands — and the robot's — to conduct precise movements with extraordinary control and range of motion. The daVinci's video monitoring system provides a three-dimensional view of the surgery with magnification 10 times that of the naked eye.

"If the thought is to show the technology that MTMC has available, who knows how many times we will do this," Chesney said. "We have a lot of new technology here in Murfreesboro."

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