Title: “….. out there – Gynecological Robotic surgery in a small rural hospital”

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Background:
St. Antonius-Hospital is a 240-bed hospital situated in a rural area in the Northwest of Germany close to the Dutch border. The hospital’s Department of Urology is one of the pioneers of robotic surgery internationally having completed more than 6,000 DaVinci prostatectomies. In the tailwind of this accomplishment, the Department of Gynecology started a program of robotic gynecological surgery, mostly in benign conditions in 2010. Until now, some 250 cases have been completed.

Methods and Materials:
We draw data from our own operative program from 2010 until 2013 using descriptive statistics. Data from our controlling department are used to demonstrate financial aspects.

Results:
We present our data focusing on structural aspects of implementing such a program in the context of a smaller size rural hospital. Data on factors like duration of procedures, type of procedures, complications, learning curve as well as financial considerations will be discussed. A special focus will be placed on a structured program of developing broad and specific surgical technique of our gynecological surgeons.

Conclusions:
The program has shown to be quite promising; pitfalls like a negative contribution margin have to be solved. Future plans will show intensification of our efforts including surgical training, consequent marketing efforts and going on to oncological surgery.