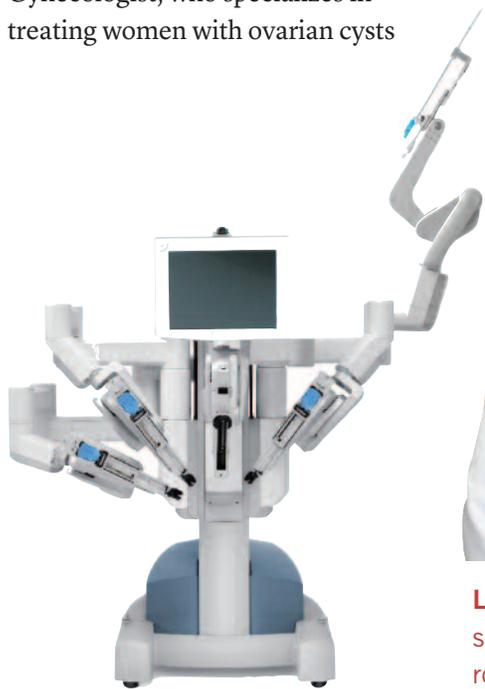


# da Vinci Robotic Surgery Back in the Saddle

Recurring pain often leads us to forgo the things we most enjoy. Consider **Nicole Bishop**, who was plagued with menstrual periods that caused extreme pain and cramping every month. The pain was so severe that she'd given up her favorite activities, like riding horses—something that in the past would relax and calm her.

"I'm very active," says Nicole, who is a Doctor of Physical Therapy and works with pediatric patients and their families. "I also run and exercise, but it all became too uncomfortable when the pain would strike."

Nicole saw **Leila Zafaranchi, MD**, Gynecologist, who specializes in treating women with ovarian cysts



and fibroids at Northridge Hospital Medical Center. "I suspected she was suffering from endometriosis, a condition where cells from the lining of the uterus grow in other areas of the body," explains Dr. Zafaranchi. Since endometriosis is undetected on an ultrasound, Nicole needed exploratory surgery to confirm the diagnosis.

Nicole was given the option of traditional surgery that is performed through a large incision, or outpatient **da Vinci Robotic Surgery**, which can be performed through three tiny incisions. This option leads to a



**Leila Zafaranchi, MD**, Gynecologist, specializes in treating women using robotic surgery.



**Nicole Bishop** is riding horses again after undergoing **da Vinci Robotic Surgery**.

opted for da Vinci. She planned to have the procedure over a long holiday weekend so she would have minimal time away from her patients.

"During the laparoscopic robotic procedure, endometriosis lesions were discovered in the pelvis and on the ovaries, which were removed," describes Dr. Zafaranchi. "Cysts on the ovaries were also drained and the ovaries were restored to their normal anatomy. In addition, a couple of polyps were removed from inside the uterus under direct visualization."

Nicole returned home a few hours after the surgery. Within days, she ventured outdoors to take walks and attended a picnic. "The surgery was truly amazing," she says. "Dr. Zafaranchi resolved my issues and I'm feeling great. I can even ride my horses again with no pain."

da Vinci Robotic Surgery allows physicians to perform minimally invasive urological and gynecological procedures through dime-sized incisions. Surgeons can maneuver in ways not humanly possible, which increases accuracy. Patient advantages include an outpatient procedure or shorter hospitalization, reduced pain, less scarring and a faster recovery. 818-885-3500 or [www.NorthridgeHospital.org](http://www.NorthridgeHospital.org)