



## 1.3k robotic surgeries at JIPMER in 5 yrs

**DEBJANI DUTTA** @Puducherry

JAWAHARLAL Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research (JIPMER), a central government hospital in South India, has performed over 1,350 robot-assisted surgeries (RAS) within a span of five years.

“More than 90% of our patients belong to lower-income group, and we are grateful that we could treat them and perform robotic surgeries,” said medical superintendent Dr LN Dorairajan. Around 70% of patients who had undergone the

surgery are from Tamil Nadu, 20% are from Puducherry, and the remaining from other states, he added. Being a central government hospital equipped to treat critical cases, JIPMER gets referrals from all cities.

The hospital installed RAS technology, Da Vinci by Intuitive Surgical, in 2017. Dr Bibekanand Jindal, head of paediatric surgery and officer-in-charge of multi-disciplinary robotic assisted minimal access surgery unit of JIPMER, told *TNIE*, “Major departments undertaking the procedure are

gastroenterology, oncology, urology and paediatric surgery. More than 250 robotic surgeries were performed on infants and children aged between two months and 15 years.”

There is only one RAS unit at JIPMER and around 17 skilled surgeons provide quality treatment to alleviate complexities in both children and adults.

While its cost at other hospitals ranges from ₹1.5 lakh to ₹3 lakh, JIPMER does it free of cost for people living below the poverty line. For others, a nominal cost of ₹30,000 to ₹50,000 is charged, Dr Jindal said.