

ROBOTIC TOTAL THYROIDECTOMY BY A GASLESS UNILATERAL AXILLARY (GUA) APPROACH: VIDEO DEMONSTRATION OF THE PROCEDURE

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Background/Purpose: Robotic thyroidectomy via an axillary approach and its modifications are being adopted in many institutes throughout the world. However, robotic thyroidectomy by a trans-axillary approach is technically difficult and involves a steep learning curve. Hence, it is only being performed by a very limited number of surgeons. We have been performing robotic thyroidectomy by gasless unilateral axillo-breast (GUAB) and gasless unilateral axillary (GUA) approaches, and have reported on their feasibility, safety, and comparable surgical outcomes for benign and malignant thyroid tumors. Here we demonstrate our novel procedure of robotic total thyroidectomy by a GUA approach to report its technical feasibility, safety and surgical completeness for differentiated thyroid carcinoma.

Methods: We performed robotic total thyroidectomy with bilateral central neck dissection for the patient with papillary thyroid carcinoma by a GUA approach.

Results: The entire surgical procedure for robotic total thyroidectomy with central neck dissection was successfully completed. There was no postoperative complication. Because of the dexterity of robotic instruments and the improved surgical view, it was subjectively easier to identify and preserve the recurrent laryngeal nerve and parathyroid glands. Postoperative cosmetic satisfaction was excellent.

Discussion & Conclusion: Robotic total thyroidectomy by GUA approach is safe, feasible and cosmetically excellent procedure in appropriately selected patients.