Sydney Varnado

M.P.H. Candidate, Health Policy Track sydney.g.varnado@vanderbilt.edu

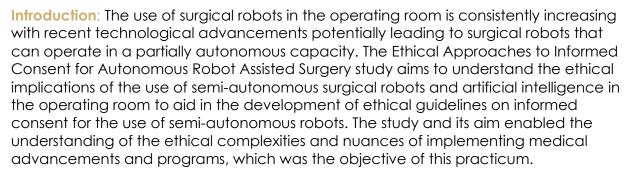
Practicum Site: VUMC (Center for Biomedical Ethics &

Society)

Site Supervisor: Michelle Houston, Ph.D.

Ethical Perceptions of Semi-Autonomous Robot Assisted Surgery

Key words: semi-autonomous, informed consent, decision-making



Methods: This practicum, carried out at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, consisted of data collection and analysis for Aim 1 of the study consisted of in-depth qualitative interviews with surgical patients and surgical providers that were carried out to better understand perceptions of the decision-making factors and ethical dilemmas involving semi-autonomous robot assisted surgeries. The interviews covered various topics including perceptions of semi-autonomous surgical robots, decision-making, and informed consent.

Results: The qualitative data collected from Aim 1 of the study provided invaluable insight into surgical stakeholders' thoughts and perceptions of robot assisted surgery. The data used from the Aim 1 interviews also informed a manuscript that described the importance of addressing ethical implications of semi-autonomous robot assisted surgeries.

Conclusions: With technology constantly evolving, it is imperative that the ethical implications behind the use of these advancements be considered and that patients will be fully informed on the use of semi-autonomous surgical robots and other medical technology. This project will serve to inform surgeons and patients in these ethical considerations as well as the informed consent process for semi-autonomous robot assisted surgery.

