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THEIR FAMIL**

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INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

Robotic-assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy (RALP) and open radical prostatectomy (ORP) have similar clinical and functional outcomes. RALP is more expensive than ORP, but it is not clear whether subsequent postoperative costs vary. We assessed the economic impact of RALP and ORP on patients and their families in the year following surgery.

METHODS

We recruited ORP and RALP patients planning surgery for stage T1-T2 prostate cancer at an academic cancer center. Economic impact questionnaires were completed at 3, 6, and 12 months after surgery. The self-administered survey included items regarding the use and cost of health services and supplies, health insurance coverage and employment, and changes in the patient's and his family's finances since prostate cancer surgery.

RESULTS

their families, and appears to have an