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NEWS

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Scottsdale Healthcare is first with Visionaire knee technology

Custom-made surgical instruments yield better-fitting, longer-lasting knee replacements

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (May 18, 2009) – Ahwatukee resident Ken Grum didn't think twice about traveling to North Scottsdale to have his knee replacement surgery at Scottsdale Healthcare Thompson Peak Hospital, the first and only Arizona hospital to use new Visionaire patient-matched technology, which provides custom-made surgical instruments that result in better-fitting, longer-lasting implants with less muscle damage.

Grum, 56, had his left knee replaced recently by orthopedic surgeon Stefan Tarlow, MD, the only physician in Arizona currently using Visionaire patient-matched technology. "Personalized instruments are made specifically for each patient's anatomy, which yields a precise fit," said Dr. Tarlow.

The instruments detail the bone cuts the individual patient will need during surgery. This minimizes the chance of errors and improves the accuracy of the implant's placement and alignment.

With this new technology, the patient's MRI and x-ray images are scanned into a software program, which generates virtual images of their knee. Personalized surgical instruments are then created from medical-grade plastic to match the shapes and contours of the patient's knee.

More than 30 percent of total knee replacement failures are due to misalignment during surgery, according to Visionaire manufacturer Smith & Nephew. Even slight misalignment can cause uneven wear, loosening and instability, contributing to early implant failure and follow-up surgeries.

Knee replacement with patient-matched technology is part of Scottsdale Healthcare's minimally invasive surgery program, which provides patients with less hospital time, scarring, pain and recovery time.

"The benefits of minimally invasive surgery are due to the fact that no incision is made in the quadriceps tendon, the large muscle on the front of the thigh, and the procedure is done through as small of an incision as possible, causing less trauma to the soft tissues," said Dr. Tarlow. "Minimally invasive surgery is improving patients' lives after knee replacement."

Grum, who was hospitalized three nights, said he experienced minimal surgical pain. "I was up and walking with a walker the same day as my surgery," said Grum. A regular exerciser, motorcycle and bike rider, he plans to return to his favorite activities after having Dr. Tarlow replace his other knee at Scottsdale Healthcare Thompson Peak Hospital in June.

The first hospital north of Loop 101, Scottsdale Healthcare Thompson Peak Hospital opened in late 2007 near the northeast corner of Scottsdale Road and Thompson Peak Parkway in the Grayhawk area. For more information about minimally invasive surgery at Scottsdale Healthcare, call 480-323-3350 or visit www.shc.org.

Dr. Stefan Tarlow is an orthopedic surgeon with Advanced Knee Care, 2122 E. Highland Ave., #300, Phoenix, 480-483-0393, www.tarlowknee.com.

Scottsdale Healthcare (www.shc.org) is the not-for-profit parent organization of Scottsdale Healthcare Osborn Medical Center, Scottsdale Healthcare Shea Medical Center, Scottsdale Healthcare Thompson Peak Hospital, Virginia G. Piper Cancer Center, Scottsdale Clinical Research Institute, TGen Clinical Research Services at Scottsdale Healthcare, Scottsdale Healthcare Home Health Services, Scottsdale Healthcare Community Health Services, NOAH Clinics and Scottsdale Healthcare Foundation. Scottsdale Healthcare ER wait times are updated every three minutes at www.fastERtimes.org.

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