

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local orthopaedic surgeon offers new custom knee replacement
Local study to evaluate patient benefits and costs of custom versus traditional implants

FORT MYERS, Fla. (Nov. 4, 2009) – Local orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Peter J. Curcione now is offering custom knee replacement to better match the fit and placement of the implant to the patient. As a member of the Lee Memorial Health System Orthopaedic Technology Committee, Curcione is participating in a local study comparing the patient benefits and health care costs of custom knee replacement to traditional knee replacement.

With custom knee replacement, an MRI or CAT scan of the patient's knee is performed a few weeks before surgery and sent to the implant manufacturer. A computer program then generates custom cutting guides that are manufactured and shipped to the surgeon for use during surgery. During traditional knee replacement, any custom fitting occurs during surgery.

“Rather than shaping the implant to custom fit the patient during surgery, the implants are made in advance,” says Curcione. “For surgeons, this means increased focus on making the placement as accurate and stable as possible. For patients, the potential benefits include less time under anesthesia, shorter hospital stay, a more natural fit and a quicker recovery.”

To better understand the cost differences of custom knee versus traditional knee replacement, Curcione will compare the costs associated with length of hospital stay, length of surgery, time under anesthesia, increase in turnover of surgical cases, the number of surgical instruments used during the procedure, as well as the costs of the implants. The study will take place over a six-month period.

Advanced “As technology grows, physicians have to carefully examine both the costs and quality of the products and services we offer patients,” says Curcione. “Our overall goal is to provide the highest level of patient care.”

More than 540,000 total knee replacements are performed in the U.S. each year, and this number is expected to grow to 3.4 million by 2030. This growth is fueled by several trends including increasing obesity and arthritis rates, a higher success rate of implants and a growing baby boomer generation that wants to stay active later in life.

“Custom knee replacement is a very exciting advancement in knee replacement surgery for both surgeons and patients,” says Curcione. “Most importantly, the goal with knee replacement is to offer the most accurate fit and placement possible so patients can return more quickly to their active lifestyles.”

About Dr. Curcione:

Dr. Curcione is an osteopathic physician, a board certified orthopaedic surgeon and a partner in the Athletic Orthopaedic Reconstruction Center. With offices in Fort Myers and Lehigh Acres, Curcione has served patients in Southwest Florida since 1997. His specialty training and interests include joint replacement surgery, including minimally-invasive procedures such as the anterior approach to hip replacement. In addition, Curcione is experienced and trained in treating disorders of the shoulder and the hand, including fracture care, carpal tunnel syndrome, arthritis care and reconstructive surgery of the hand. He is trained in arthroscopic shoulder surgery, specifically, all arthroscopic rotator cuff repairs and ligament repairs, as well as arthroscopic reconstruction of the shoulder. He takes great care to keep up to date with the most cutting-edge technologies and procedures to optimally serve his patients.

For more information, visit www.bone-fix.com. Click [video](#) to view a broadcast of how the anterior approach to hip replacement surgery is performed. Also, visit Dr. Curcione's blog at www.topbonedoc.com and follow him online on [Facebook](#) and <http://twitter.com/topbonedoc>.

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