



New Knee Replacement Surgery Now Done as Outpatient

Patient Walks Out of Surgery Center 1 Hour Later

SAN FRANCISCO, May 8 /PRNewswire/ -- Beverly Enderlein is the first patient in the United States to have undergone a new type of knee replacement surgery on a purely outpatient basis, and she was able to walk out of the surgery center about an hour after awakening. Dr. Eugene M. Wolf performed the surgery at Pacific Heights Surgery Center on April 2, 2007.

"Developed in England, the Oxford knee replacement system is an exciting alternative for patients who would normally be hospitalized and undergo a total knee replacement. The recovery is dramatically different and the follow-up data from Europe suggest that this prosthesis has better results, and fewer complications than other knee replacement systems (unicompartmental or total). Up to 40% of the 500,000 patients that now undergo total knee arthroplasty in the US could benefit from this new knee prosthesis now done on an outpatient basis. While this new system of knee replacement has been available in Europe for a decade, this unicompartmental knee was approved by the FDA just over a year ago," said Dr. Eugene Wolf, the only surgeon in San Francisco certified to implant the Oxford knee.

"I feel wonderful! The arthritis pain I had for years was gone as soon as I woke up. I was able to walk out of the surgery center an hour after the surgery. I have been walking without pain ever since, and can't wait to resume hiking in a few weeks," said Ms. Enderlein.

Unlike total knee surgery that replaces all the knee joint surfaces, the Oxford knee resurfaces only the most severely affected part of the knee. Osteoarthritis of the knee occurs predominantly in the medial (inside) compartment, as this side of the knee bears most of the weight. Unlike total knees, the unicompartmental approach restores the most arthritic compartment and keeps the rest of the knee intact. By retaining all the normal knee ligaments and other joint surfaces, the knee regains normal motion and function.

In a healthy knee, the meniscal cartilage serves as a shock absorber between the ends of the bones. The Oxford Knee is the first knee implant with a completely mobile meniscal bearing insert, designed to glide freely throughout the knee's range of motion to more closely replicate normal knee mechanics. The ingenious instrumentation allows the surgeon to place the mobile prosthesis in perfect balance. The mobility and balance of the Oxford knee is unique and protects the knee from the breakdown and loosening we have seen in all other knee replacements, total or partial.

"We are very pleased that Dr. Wolf was able to perform this procedure on an outpatient basis at the Pacific Heights Surgery Center. We are proud to be leaders in this new outpatient direction of knee replacement surgery. Our focus on orthopedics, our highly trained staff, and state-of-the-art equipment allow our surgeons to make progress in this exciting new area," said Dave Odell, President of MedBridge Development and Pacific Heights Surgery Center.

There are 26 million Americans who are affected by osteoarthritis according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Annually there are 500,000 total knee replacement surgeries performed in the United States. Dr. Wolf believes that as many as 40% of those total knee patients might now benefit from this new less invasive knee replacement surgery.

"When I asked patients who had recently undergone the Oxford knee replacement, and who had had the experience of a total knee, or even a unicompartmental arthroplasty on the other knee to compare the surgeries, their response was: 'There is simply no comparison ... There was no pain or swelling, immediate relief of the arthritis pain, and no stiffness.' Not only is the post-operative recovery dramatically better, but the long term results are improved due to the virtual absence of wear of the polyethylene implant. This reduces the likelihood of more complicated revision surgeries in the future," summed up Dr. Wolf.

Additional information is available by contacting Eugene M. Wolf, M. D. at 415-563-2600 or at www.kneeandshoulder.com.