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Medical News
For Immediate Release
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DeSoto Memorial Hospital performs patient-specific knee replacement surgery

Arcadia, FL (June, 2009) -- While choosing a high performance knee replacement is central to regaining your active life, there is a new, technologically advanced surgical procedure that may extend the life of knee implants.

VISIONAIRE Patient Specific technology is a remarkable system that uses a patient's MRI and x-ray images to design and build surgical instruments customized for his or her unique knee anatomy.

While every person's knee joint has subtle differences in shape and contour, traditional surgical instruments used to place knee implants are one-size-fits-all. In the past, an orthopedic surgeon would spend time during the procedure adapting to a knee's "terrain" in order to achieve the proper placement of the implant.

Using VISIONAIRE technology, the surgeon comes to the operating room equipped with single-use instruments, engineered exclusively for that patient's knee by the leading innovator in orthopedic medicine — Smith & Nephew Orthopaedics.

Not only does the VISIONAIRE system eliminate multiple steps from the surgery, thus reducing time under anesthesia, but an implant placed with this computer-guided precision has a reduced risk of the kind of misalignment that can cause it to wear out before its time.

"This technology is truly groundbreaking," says Dr. David Kaler. I think it decreases operative time significantly. All planning is done pre-operatively vs. intra-operative, and the medullary canal is not violated. This theoretically means less blood loss and less chance of contamination of the entire femur and tibia.

In addition to enhancing the procedure, patients also get to take home the unique plastic instruments their doctor used to perform the case.

For more information about VISIONAIRE Patient Specific technology, contact: Charlotte Orthopaedic Clinic at 941-625-0984.

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David Kaler, M.D.