

## Knee Replacement Implant Offers More Flexibility

(NAPSA)—Approximately twenty-one million Americans suffer from osteoarthritis, a degenerative joint disease that often follows a history of injury or overuse of a joint.

Deterioration of the articular cartilage in the knees, often the result of osteoarthritis, causes bone to rub against bone. This friction causes symptoms such as a feeling of stiffness, moderate to severe discomfort, debilitating pain and eventual loss of motion. In some cases, total knee replacement is necessary.

Approximately 266,000 total knee replacements are performed each year and that number is increasing, according to the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

"Patients today are expecting to maintain an active lifestyle after total knee replacement," said Giles R. Scuderi, M.D., an orthopedic surgeon at New York's Insall Scott Kelly Institute.

Technology is now available that offers a higher range of motion, or bending of the knee, for patients with the ability and desire to perform high flexion activities.

Scuderi continues, "The LPS-Flex Fixed Knee from Zimmer Inc., offers a new option for those suffering from osteoarthritis to reclaim aspects of their lives on which they place much value."

The implant is the first one specifically designed to safely accommodate deep flexion of up to 155 degrees. Generally, knee implants were designed to accommodate flexion up to 125 degrees.

Hobbies such as gardening and golfing require high degrees of flexion of the knee. In addition, cultural activities such as kneeling for prayer, sitting cross-legged and squatting demand frequent high flexion. Many daily activities require this range of motion as well, such as climbing stairs, sitting in a chair and



NexGen® Complete Knee Solution  
LPS-Flex Fixed Bearing Knee



**With today's knee replacement options, people with osteoarthritis may find it easier to resume activities they enjoy.**

standing up again.

The sooner patients report their symptoms to doctors, the sooner treatment options can be discussed.

"The key to effectively treating knee problems is early diagnosis," said Scuderi. "With early diagnosis and good preoperative flexibility, the Flex Fixed Knee can allow patients to resume many of the physical activities they have come to enjoy."

Studies show that total knee replacement patients with good preoperative flexibility are more likely to maintain that flexibility.

Whether the knee is suitable for an individual patient is based on a number of considerations.

"Such considerations include the person's activity level, weight, bone quality and if the arthritis is advanced enough for this treatment," said Michael A. Kelly, M.D., a founding orthopedic surgeon of the Insall Scott Kelly Institute, which helped to develop the knee replacement.

For more information on the LPS-Flex Fixed Knee, call the toll free hotline at 1-877-866-FLEX or visit [www.Pacewithlife.com](http://www.Pacewithlife.com).