



spotlight on health

Mini-Incision Total Hip Replacement: A Cut Above

(NAPSA)—There's a buzz out there that's good news for any one of the 160,000 people that the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons says will likely undergo total hip replacement surgery this year. Total hip replacement is a relatively common surgery that may achieve significant improvements in both mobility and pain relief for those who need it. The most recent advances in both technology and surgical techniques for hip replacement are being promoted as able to reduce patient discomfort while improving their overall experiences with the surgery.

One of the more notable examples is today's mini-incision total hip replacement. This new procedure may allow many patients to walk away from previously common woes that can result from traditional hip replacement surgery including large scars and lengthy rehabilitation times.

Traditional hip replacement surgery normally requires a doctor to make a 12-18 inch incision and pass through large muscles to get to the hip joint and socket. The mini-incision procedure, however, only requires about a three-inch incision, which can mean less recovery pain and shorter recovery times as well as shorter hospital stays and a reduced chance for infection. Lawrence D. Dorr, M.D., Medical Director of The Arthritis Institute at Centinela Hospital Medical Center in Los Angeles is a leader in mini-incision total hip replacement and also offers this procedure with a posterior-entry.

"The secret to our mini-incision total hip replacement is that we access the hip joint from the rear, where skin is easier to maneuver and there is great blood supply to promote faster healing," said Dr.



Dr. Lawrence D. Dorr is a pioneer of the posterior-entry mini-incision total hip replacement.

Dorr. "Best of all, the incision is only about three inches long."

Dorr goes on to say that under his care, patients may recover quickly and may be independently mobile within a matter of days.

The new, minimally invasive hip replacement procedure takes doctors about 60 minutes to perform since the smaller incision reduces time needed to close the wound. This is a reduction in the traditional procedure, which could last up to three hours. This may mean less time required for patients to be under anesthetic, which could be a comfort for people who don't like the thought of being unconscious for long periods.

So, those who need to have a total hip replacement can feel good that relief from pain could be just a step away. Talk with your doctor today about your options.

Dorr is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon and the medical director of The Arthritis Institute at Centinela Hospital Medical Center and Queen of Angels-Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center, Los Angeles. For more information on minimally invasive hip surgery, please call (310) 695-4828 or visit www.arthritishealth.com/index.htm.