

Evergreen Hospital First in Region to Utilize Spine Navigation System for Minimally Invasive Surgery

The Associated Press

/FROM PR NEWSWIRE DALLAS 888-776-3971/ [STK] [IN] HEA BIO CPR [SU] PDT TO HEALTH, AND MEDICAL EDITORS: Evergreen Hospital First in Region to Utilize Spine Navigation System for Minimally Invasive Surgery KIRKLAND, Wash., March 28, 2012 /PRNewswire/-- Evergreen Hospital, a statewide leader in minimally invasive spine surgery, today announced it had completed the first minimally invasive spinal surgery procedure in the region using a state-of-the-art spine navigation system.

Evergreen's Dr. Jeffrey Roh used the surgical technology for the first time on March 26 in a Transforaminal Lumbar Interbody Fusion (TLIF) procedure, which is a surgical method used to remove a disc from between two vertebrae and then fuse them back together.

The spinal navigation system, developed by medical technology company Stryker, is an image-based technology that allows surgeons to use scans of a patient's anatomy for enhanced visualization, and allows the surgeon to track the exact position of surgical instruments through the system's navigation camera, allowing for more precise screw placement, among other benefits.

"At Evergreen, we are always seeking ways to provide the best clinical care and an exceptional patient experience. Minimally invasive approaches to surgery are at the forefront of this intent," said Evergreen Healthcare CEO Bob Malte. "The skill and leadership our physicians are providing with this innovative approach to spine surgeries is an example of how we continue to push the envelope for providing leading-edge care. We take great pride in their achievements, and our patients receive the benefits." Minimally invasive spine surgery has traditionally presented more challenges due to the extreme sensitivity and proximity of nerves in the spine. This technology increases the accuracy and precision of spinal procedures and allows more patients to benefit from minimally invasive surgery, which results in smaller incisions, less tissue damage, less bleeding and quicker recovery.

"With the advent of minimally invasive techniques in spinal surgery, we have been afforded a unique opportunity to utilize technologies such as Stryker's computer-assisted spinal navigation system in order to improve the accuracy, and therefore, safety of the procedures we perform through very small incisions," said Dr. Roh. "Not only is computer-assisted spinal navigation surgery more precise and accurate, in conjunction with minimally invasive spine surgery techniques, it will ensure that Evergreen Hospital continues to be a leader in cutting-edge spinal care." Evergreen's Spine Institute is a leader in providing a full range of options for spine surgery, and its surgeons are deeply involved in developing and refining minimally invasive techniques. The Spine Institute takes a comprehensive approach to patient

Evergreen Hospital First in Region to Utilize Spine Navigation System for M

Published on Medical Design Technology (<http://www.mdtmag.com>)

care, from the preoperative program to surgery and postoperative recovery to follow-up care with physical therapists and home care specialists.

To learn more about Evergreen's Spine Institute, visit <http://www.evergreenhospital.org/spine> or call the Evergreen Healthline 425.899.3000.

About Evergreen Healthcare Evergreen Healthcare, a public hospital district and community-based health care organization established in 1972, offers a breadth of services and programs that is among the most comprehensive in the region. More than 950 physicians provide clinical excellence within more than 80 specialties, including cardiac, oncology, surgical care, orthopedics, a Neuroscience Institute, Women's and Children's services, hospice care, pulmonary care, a Sleep Disorders Center and Home Health services care. Evergreen serves more than 400,000 residents in its primary service area of northern King and southern Snohomish counties with Evergreen Medical Group, a network of primary and urgent care practices, and Evergreen Hospital Medical Center, its main hospital campus in Kirkland, Wash. Evergreen also provides emergency care at two sites; its main hospital campus and the Evergreen Redmond Medical Center. In addition to clinical care, Evergreen offers extensive community health outreach and education programs, anchored by Evergreen Healthline, a 24/7 nurse consultation service. For more information, visit www.evergreenhealthcare.org .

CONTACTS: Kay Taylor VP of Marketing Evergreen Healthcare 425.899.2604 Kristi Clough Firmani + Associates Inc. 206.443.9357 Kristi@firmani.com SOURCE Evergreen Healthcare -0- 03/28/2012 /Web Site: <http://www.evergreenhealthcare.org> CO: Evergreen Healthcare ST: Washington IN: HEA BIO CPR SU: PDT PRN -- SF78341 -- 0000 03/28/2012 18:20:04 EDT <http://www.prnewswire.c>

Source URL (retrieved on 07/29/2014 - 3:11am):

<http://www.mdtmag.com/news/2012/03/evergreen-hospital-first-region-utilize-spine-navigation-system-minimally-invasive-surgery>