



Special Report from the CEO — September 2011



Robert J. LaBarge, CEO

On the cutting edge

In the competitive world of healthcare, big hospitals who have more resources are more often the leaders of innovation and new services—but not always!

People resources can level the playing field and we have some of the best, which is why I'm so please to share with you this news. Our orthopedic surgeon, Dr. James Grannell, is **one of the first physicians nationwide** to offer a new hip replacement procedure: Anterior Approach.

Anterior hip replacement technique is a new, minimally invasive approach to hip replacement surgery that allows patients to rehabilitate faster and with less pain. The surgeon makes a small anterior incision and generally separates the muscles, ligaments, and tendons to access the hip joint—**no longer cutting through muscles and tendons and disrupting nerves**. Traditional surgery involves a 10- to 12 inch muscle incision and cutting of those tissues. The less-invasive approach is good news for millions of Americans who suffer from arthritic hip pain, but may have put off hip replacements because of the lengthy, painful rehabilitation typically required after standard surgeries.

Dr. Grannell received special training in the AMIS Anterior hip replacement procedure through Medacta and a state-of-the-art facility. With the new technique, the surgeon uses the same high quality, clinically proven implants that are used in traditional hip replacement. However, specialized instruments allow the surgeon to see and access the hip joint, to work in a much smaller area, and to generally separate rather than cut surrounding tissues.

According to the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, approximately 30 million people in the U.S. suffer from osteoarthritis, which causes deterioration of the cartilage in the hip joint, eventually leaving bone to rub against bone. The friction causes stiffness and pain, making activities and often even sitting for long periods of time extremely uncomfortable. The anterior hip replacement procedure is an option for many patients who are candidates for traditional hip replacement.

Compared to a standard hip replacement surgery, the potential benefits for patients of the anterior procedure include:

- Less tissue trauma for muscles, tendons and nerves
- Faster and less painful rehabilitation
- A shorter hospital stay
- Less blood loss
- Faster return to work and daily activities

“My patients who have had the anterior hip replacement procedure have been amazed at how soon they are getting around after surgery and how little pain they feel,” said Dr. Grannell of Sturgis Orthopedics. “Some feel like they could walk out the hospital on their own after only one day, others are climbing stairs pain free little more than a week after surgery—something they haven’t done in years!”

