

PRESS RELEASE



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Brett R. Levine, M.D.

John D. Mahoney, M.D.

Michael S. Merkley, M.D.

Daniel S. Mulconrey, M.D.

Thomas J. Mulvey, M.D.

James R. Williams, M.D.

recently retired

David E. Conner, M.D.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Doctor Performs First Cervical Disc Replacement Surgery in Peoria Area

October 3, 2007

PEORIA, IL - For the first time in the Peoria Area, a groundbreaking spine surgery will be performed. On October 3, two doctors from Midwest Orthopaedic Center, Richard Kube II, MD and Daniel Mulconrey, MD, will complete the area's first cervical [neck] disc replacement surgery. This surgery involves replacing one of the discs in the cervical spine with an artificial implant. Having the disc replaced rather than fused increases the range of motion in the cervical spine after surgery.

Patients with degenerative disc disease and herniated cervical discs will be most affected by this advancement in surgery. The majority of patients with this malady use fusion as the solution. As the name suggests, fusion joins bones together to stabilize them. This loss of motion is thought to accelerate arthritis at other discs in the spine. Not only can disc replacement allow for better range of motion, but it has been found to have faster healing and return to work times in some studies.

"This type of surgery is exciting. Not only does it help the patient, but it advances the possibilities available to those with spine trouble," said Dr. Kube. "Joints in arms and legs have been replaced for years. We are now understanding spine mechanics enough to attempt to duplicate outcomes in the spine that were seen in hips and knees for years." The disc replacement device gained FDA approval in July of this year.

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"The orthopaedic surgeons at the Center always strive to best serve their patients. We are confident that the new methods used by Dr. Kube and Dr. Mulconrey will improve the lives of their patients," stated Michael Gibbons, MD, president. Midwest Orthopaedic Center has 11 orthopaedic surgeons on staff with nearly every subspecialty.

Dr. Mulconrey and Dr. Kube are both board eligible orthopaedic spine surgeons. Each has participated in groundbreaking research in new spine techniques.

About Midwest Orthopaedic Center:

Midwest Orthopaedic Center offers more specialties than any other orthopaedic group in Central Illinois and has a new facility located at 6000 N. Allen Road. Midwest Orthopaedic Center is proud to serve the Peoria Community and all its fine hospitals.

For more information, please see <http://www.midwest-ortho.com>

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