

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WINTER PARK – A local surgeon is among 14 surgeons nationwide participating in a study that may have significant impact on local patients and people with knee arthritis nationwide.

Dr. Richard Konsens, an orthopaedic surgeon with the Jewett Orthopaedic Clinic who practices at Winter Park Memorial Hospital, is studying two different types of the high-tech plastic that make knee replacement possible.

Total knee replacement has been used for decades to provide relief from the pain and immobility of arthritis and other crippling joint problems. The diseased joint is removed and replaced with an implant. The implant components are made of metal and a special type of medical plastic called polyethylene. The study will compare the clinical and functional outcomes of two types of polyethylene: “cross-linked” polyethylene and another type called GVF, which has been the standard used successfully for many years.

Crosslinking is a process in which plastic molecules are bonded together in an effort to produce a stronger material with greater ability to resist wear. The theory is that reduced wear could enhance performance for the knee implant.

“The laboratory tests use knee simulators to put the implants through millions of simulated footsteps,” Dr. Konsens said. “The data shows a decrease in wear using the cross-linked material. Our goal now with this national study is to test that with real-world conditions.”

In the study of 100 local patients, Dr. Konsens will give all the study patients the same type of implant, called the PFC[®] Sigma Total Knee System, made by DePuy Orthopaedics, Inc. which is sponsoring the study. Half of the patients will receive an implant with the cross-linked plastic, and half will receive the GVF type. Patient outcomes will then be monitored over a five-year period.

Dr. Konsens has been voted one of Orlando’s Top Doctors in 2002, 2003 and 2004 in Orlando Magazine. He has been a team physician for the Orlando Magic and UCF basketball teams. He has practiced in Winter Park since 1990. He graduated Cum Laude from Dartmouth College and completed medical school at the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York. He completed a fellowship at Oxford University in England and a residency at the Mt. Sinai Medical Center in Cleveland.

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