



## **NEWS**

**Feb. 24, 2009**

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Saint Luke's offers single incision laparoscopic surgery**

*Advances patient care with minimal scarring and pain*

*KANSAS CITY, Mo.* – Minimally invasive surgeons at Saint Luke's Hospital are among the most experienced in the Kansas City area at performing Single Incision Laparoscopic Surgery (SILS). Since fall 2008, surgeons have performed more than 50 cases using SILS techniques on patients requiring cholecystectomy (gall bladder removal), spleen removal, and appendectomies.

A single incision through the umbilicus (belly button) serves as the portal for the surgeons to insert a camera and other instruments and the extraction of the internal organ. Use of SILS eliminates any visible scarring. Typically laparoscopic surgery involves three or four small incisions through the patient's abdominal wall.

"SILS is a transitional bridge between the advent of laparoscopic surgery in the 1980s and the future of surgery, which would involve no incisions at all," said B. Todd Moore, M.D., minimally invasive surgeon at Saint Luke's Hospital. "Laparoscopic procedures typically require only a few days recovery for the patient and the recovery timetable for SILS is about the same. The biggest advantages are fewer scars and less pain because there's one small incision instead of four."

SILS techniques take about the same amount of time to perform as traditional laparoscopic surgeries, though SILS is more complex because it involves manipulating three articulating instruments through one access port. As SILS experience evolves at Saint Luke's, Dr. Moore expects that future procedures could include colon resections (removal/reattachments), esophageal reflux disease, and bariatric surgeries.

Dr. Moore, along with G. Brent Sorensen, M.D., is part of Saint Luke's center for advanced minimally invasive surgery. They are one of the few training sites for SILS procedures for other surgeons from across the country. The program also participates in

several industry trials to advance the access devices and instrumentation used in minimally invasive procedures.

*Saint Luke's Health System consists of 11 area hospitals and many primary care practices, and provides a range of inpatient, outpatient, and home care services. Founded as a faith-based, not-for-profit organization, our mission includes a commitment to the highest levels of excellence in health care and the advancement of medical research and education. The health system is an aligned organization in which the physicians and hospitals assume responsibility for enhancing the physical, mental, and spiritual health of people in the metropolitan Kansas City area and the surrounding region.*

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