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Hip Resurfacing Offers Alternative to Replacement

Ralph Salvagno, MD, medical director of the Center for Joint Replacement at Washington County Hospital, is now performing hip resurfacing as an alternative for younger or active patients considering hip replacement surgery. Resurfacing provides results similar to hip replacement while preserving the femoral head and potentially decreasing the chance of dislocation. During the procedure worn cartilage and damaged areas in the first layer of bone are removed from the femur; a metal cap is then fitted to the femur and a metal cup to the acetabulum. Hip resurfacing is contraindicated in patients with osteoporosis, impaired kidney function, or obesity. For more information, please call Ralph Salvagno, MD, (*Center for Joint Surgery and Sports Medicine*) at 301-665-4575.

Irritable Bowel Syndrome Study Recruiting

The Center for Clinical Research is conducting a study of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) evaluating the safety and effectiveness of an investigational medication associated with treating intestinal bacteria. The study will include adults age eighteen or older who have had abdominal discomfort and other symptoms associated with irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) for at least twelve weeks out of the last twelve months, who have not had adequate relief of IBS symptoms and IBS bloating, and who have loose and watery stools. Study participants will be required to maintain an electronic study diary on a daily basis and may also be required to have a colonoscopy. Nelson Ferreira, MD, (*Digestive Disorders Consultants*) is principal investigator of the study. For more information about the study or to refer a patient, please contact Angela Angstadt, CCRC, at 301-665-4608.

Electrical Stimulator Treats Foot Drop

Patients suffering from foot drop related to multiple sclerosis, stroke, cerebral palsy, incomplete spinal cord injury, or traumatic brain injury may benefit from the Bioness L300, a non-invasive, lightweight neuroprosthesis now available from Washington County Hospital's Total Rehab Care. The L300 fits on the leg just below the knee. Designed to help patients regain a more normal gait, the wireless and user-friendly device works via a unique gait sensor that attaches to the shoe. The sensor communicates the patient's heel position to the leg cuff, and a mild electrical stimulation activates the nerves that lift the toes. A hand-held remote control allows the patient to adjust the level of stimulation as needed. With many patients, this new technology replaces the use of their ankle-foot orthosis. The L300 supports muscle re-education, prevents or delays muscle atrophy, maintains or improves range of motion, and increases blood circulation, and most importantly, mimics a normal gait pattern. To refer a patient for evaluation, contact Judy Peck, (*Total Rehab Care*) at 301-714-4025.

New Open Bore MRI at Robinwood

Diagnostic Imaging Services (DIS) at Robinwood Medical Center has installed a Siemens MAGNETOM Espree, the area's first Open Bore, 1.5 Tesla, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) system. This system combines a bore that is larger than traditional high-field MRIs, nearly 2.3 feet in diameter, with the ability to capture high-field quality diagnostic images. The Espree also features the shortest 1.5 Tesla magnet available. Similar in length to a CT unit, the magnet allows for more than 60% of exams to be completed with the patient's head outside the bore, helping to ease claustrophobia. The patient-friendly design of the Espree improves patient comfort and enables DIS to provide high-field MRI quality to larger and claustrophobic patients. For more information please contact Robert Mazzei, DO, DIS medical director, at 301-714-4215.

