

BUSINESS

MEDICINE

Abrazo West adds robotic technology for knee, hip replacements

Abrazo West Campus is now offering robotic arm assisted technology for total knee, partial knee and total hip replacement procedures that will be used to help patients suffering from debilitating joint pain.

The Mako robotic system is a new tool at Abrazo West, 13677 W. McDowell Road in Goodyear, that transforms the way joint replacement surgery is performed, enabling surgeons to have a more predictable surgical experience with increased accuracy, hospital officials announced in a release. Abrazo Health continues its focus on patient safety during the ongoing pandemic, as delays in care could lead to significant complications in many types of conditions.

"We want to help patients feel safe and comfortable getting care in our hospital," hospital CEO Christina Oh said in a prepared statement. "Care teams meet frequently with respect to patient safety, best practices and ensuring

non-COVID patients are kept separated from COVID positive patients. We are encouraged by the continued reduction in hospitalized COVID patients statewide, and our commitment to safety includes protective policies and pre-operative protocols that originate in our affiliated physician practices and offices. Patients should feel confident and safe in any Abrazo facility or practice."

Millions of Americans suffer from severe knee and hip pain or stiffness that is caused by arthritis or injury that limits their ability to perform and enjoy daily activities. For those who haven't experienced relief with conservative treatment options like bracing, medication or joint fluid supplements, joint replacement surgery may be the answer, the release stated.

The demand for joint replacements is expected to rise in the next decade. Total knee replacements in the United States are expected to



Abrazo West Campus is now utilizing robotic-arm-assisted technology for knee and hip replacements. (Submitted photo)

increase 673 percent by 2030, while primary total hip replacements are estimated to increase by 174 percent. Yet studies have shown that approximately 30 percent of patients are dissatisfied after conventional surgery.

The Mako hip and knee applications provide treatment option for adults who suffer from degenerative joint disease in these areas. Orthopedic surgeons Christina Khoury M.D. and Lige Kaplan, M.D. are two orthopedic surgeons performing

knee and hip surgeries using the Mako technology at Abrazo West.

"Using the Mako we can create a 3D map of each patient's individual anatomy," Dr. Khoury said. "The technology allows me to develop each patient's individual surgical plan before entering the operating room. I can see the patient's bone structure, identify the appropriate implant size, orientation and alignment for each patient's unique anatomy. This can afford a more accurate place-

ment of the implant, which can result in a better outcome for our patients."

Dr. Kaplan explained the advantages the technology brings.

"The surgeon guides the robotic arm during the procedure, precisely positioning the implant according to the pre-determined surgical plan. In studies, Mako total hip replacement has been shown to be four times more accurate than manual total hip replacement procedures," he said. "For partial knee replacement with Mako, it is two to three times more accurate than manual partial knee replacement procedures."

The Mako Partial Knee application is a treatment option designed to relieve the pain caused by joint degeneration due to osteoarthritis that has not yet progressed

to all three compartments of the knee. Following the personalized pre-operative plan, the surgeon guides the robotic arm during bone preparation to execute the pre-determined surgical plan and position the implant. By selectively targeting only the part of the knee damaged by osteoarthritis, surgeons can resurface the diseased portion of the knee, while helping to spare the healthy bone and ligaments surrounding the knee joint.

"It's exciting to be able to offer this highly advanced and transformative technology for our patients," Ms. Oh said.

"The addition of this surgical technology to Abrazo West's orthopedic service line further demonstrates the hospital's commitment to providing the community with outstanding healthcare."



Dr. Christina Khoury



Dr. Lige Kaplan

SOUTHWEST VALLEY CHAMBER

Let's keep our signature Southwest Valley civility intact as we move back into the world

We're moving a little faster back into the world.

Well, not everyone is moving faster. Parents continue to juggle work and home schooling responsibilities, many people are without jobs, too many business owners are struggling and the list goes on but I won't be a complete doggy downer.

The puppy upper in me knows there are good things happening, too.

I'm looking to the future where more good stuff will happen. Also hoping the good stuff includes the core characteristics that make our community great.

We have amazing people living here who are friendly, look out for each other and much more.

This is one reason the Southwest Valley is a great tourist destination and an even better place to live.

We have an underlying belief in common courtes-

sy. That's huge, whether you know it or not.

Yeah, smiling at everyone has been more challenging with the mask requirement but our actions compensate for the missing visual gesture.

A story I've told a few times: guy at the cash register is short a coin, everyone in line behind him offered to cover the balance. How awesome is that?

Caring about other people is another great thing we have that is, sadly, missing in other parts of the country.

The closer you are to a person (or problem) the more you will care.

My example above was all about strangers offering help.

We do that as a community. We do it more when our economy is running better than it has been over the past six months.

Even through that, we

still figured out a way to provide whatever level of help we could give.

By the way, more support for our local charities is still needed.

Change has happened, is happening and will continue to happen. That's life and change is part of it.

The notion of "the new normal" is offensive. It implies we're stuck in a situation without hope of improving.

Each of us, and all of us together, are too forward-thinking to be jammed up for any length of time.

My hope is for our core characteristics to remain strong or get stronger.

The "We're in This Together" phrase isn't only for sheltering in place. It's a maxim for maintaining a vibrant and growing community.

Editor's note: John Salin is president/CEO of the Southwest Valley Chamber of Commerce.



John Salin

Duncan

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for irrigation water treatment, we were able adapt Kuntze's existing technology into a compact, integrated package utilizing Axiall's Tablet Chlorination Equipment that can withstand the rigors of a farm operation while maintaining chemistry levels to strict tolerances," said TG Bles, general manager of Industrial Service & Supply, in a prepared statement.

"We now have a great solution for any farm operation that needs to sanitize their irrigation water before harvest."

Founded in 1985 by Arnot and Kathleen Duncan, the farming operation is one of the country's largest organic produce growers specializing in large-scale organic innovation, the release stated.

Duncan farms' experiment of on-site composting has become one of the largest privately owned composting operations in the Southwest U.S., accepting green waste from several local municipalities, landscapers, dairies and ranches.



Kuntze's Cloud Connect service allows Duncan Family Farms to access real-time information, alerts and to remotely manage its new irrigation system from any WiFi-connected device. (Submitted photo)

"Irrigation treatment is still a young concept with much of the research and development laden upon the grower. Ensuring crops are safe for consumers, and without harming the soil, is such an important issue to the industry and we are committed to sharing our experiences and sources with other growers," Mr. Vanderzyl said.

To learn more about the farming operation, visit duncanfamilyfarms.com.

To learn more about Kuntze, a family-owned business in Meerbusch, Germany, founded in 1945, visit kuntzeusa.com.



The farming operation's new treatment system includes sensors for real-time monitoring and management of chlorine, pH levels and temperature in surface sourced irrigation water. (Submitted photo)

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