Next Generation Technology has Doctors Seeing Green

Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center recently unveiled a new Operating Room that is being called the next generation in OR technology, with only two such operating rooms in use in the United States.

“The room uses special green lighting which enhances our vision and allows us to better see the images we are performing the procedures on,” says Dr. James Tretter, Conemaugh Physician Group – Vascular Surgery. “It is also safer for the patient and staff than operating with the lights dimmed.”

The Philips Hybrid OR, with AlluraClarity, allows surgeons to perform a full range of procedures in a single room using the latest in x-ray technology – which provides high quality imaging with ultra-low radiation dose levels.

“This technology allows us to get the images we need at a fraction of the radiation exposure,” adds Dr. Tretter. “The lower radiation dose technology not only benefits the patient but also decreases the radiation exposure to the healthcare team delivering patient care in the operating room.”

At this time, the new OR is being used primarily for vascular cases including repair of aneurysms, or weak spots in arteries, and arteriograms, which use x-rays and special dye to see inside the arteries in the heart, brain, kidney and other parts of the body. For information on Vascular Services at Conemaugh, call 814-534-9194. ▲

Other key advantages of the new Hybrid OR:

- Reduction in the number of separate procedures required for the patient
- Enhanced patient care and shortened overall recovery times
- Better ability to treat patients affected by obesity and high-risk patients
- Cost savings and improved efficiency procedures performed in one room with high image quality
- Enhanced work environment
Surgeons at Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center have reached another milestone with Robotic Assisted Surgery, performing the 600th surgery in April, 2014. “We continue to be very pleased with the technology and benefits it brings to our patients,” says Dr. Anne Marie Sterlin, Conemaugh Physician Group – OB/Gyn and Chairman of the Robotic Assisted Surgery program at Conemaugh Memorial. “Shorter hospital stays and better outcomes have led to an increase in patient satisfaction.”

Two new types of surgery are now being offered robotically at Conemaugh Memorial. Dr. Timothy O’Donnell, Colorectal Surgeon, offers Robotic Assisted Colorectal Surgery for patients with colon or rectum cancer, diverticulitis of the intestine and rectal prolapse.

“The robotic platform allows for better control and capabilities for the surgeon than traditional laparoscopic surgery,” says Dr. O’Donnell. “The result is a less invasive procedure for the patient which leads to shorter hospital stays and less post-operative pain. The robotic team at Conemaugh Memorial has led the way in innovation, one of our CARING values.” Dr. O’Donnell is also joining his colleagues in Conemaugh Physician Group – Surgery in performing single-site robotic gallbladder surgery. “The robotic technology allows us to do traditional laparoscopic surgery for gallbladder disease through one, very small incision. It is not indicated for use in all patients but can be used in a large majority and the results have been very positive.”

Dr. Christopher Gist recently joined Conemaugh Physician Group - Urology, the practice of Drs. Vincent Fiorica and Richard Pidutti. Dr. Gist has years of experience using Robotic Assisted Surgery for urology patients and offers expertise in minimally invasive and Robotic Assisted Surgery for the treatment of prostate, kidney and bladder disease, male/female incontinence, pediatric urology, female pelvic floor construction and surgical oncology.

“I am excited to bring Robotic Assisted Surgery treatments to urology patients in the region,” says Dr. Gist. “There is no doubt that this technology leads to shorter hospital stays, quicker recovery and less pain. I think patients will be very pleased with the results.”

For more information on Robotic Assisted Surgery at Conemaugh Memorial, call 814-534-3121.

OVER 600 CASES and growing at Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center

Robotic Assisted Surgery

www.conemaugh.org • www.facebook.com/conemaugh
“Today’s announcement marks a Banner Day for our community.”

Ron Vickroy, Chairman
Conemaugh Health System Board of Directors

“Through a thoughtful, deliberate exploration process, our Board’s goal was to find a partner that would strengthen quality and access to care, as well as bring substantial investment and resources to our community. We believe that Duke LifePoint is the perfect fit.”

In March 2014, Ron Vickroy, Chairman, Conemaugh Health System Board of Directors, announced that Conemaugh Health System signed a letter of intent to explore a partnership with Duke LifePoint Healthcare.

Since the letter of intent was signed and announced, a period of due diligence has been taking place. Pending review by state authorities and subject to customary closing conditions, a definitive agreement will be finalized followed by the completion of the transaction later this year.

“Like Conemaugh, Duke LifePoint has an excellent reputation for clinical quality and safety and is dedicated to educating the next generation of medical professionals,” said Dr. William Carney, Surgeon and Conemaugh Physician Group Chief Medical Officer. “This partnership is great news for our patients, our medical staff, employees and west central Pennsylvania.”
While Conemaugh and Duke LifePoint will be negotiating the specific terms, there is an understanding that the definitive agreement will include:

- **Commitment to Quality**: A leading goal of this partnership is to continue to enhance the quality and patient safety initiatives at Conemaugh. Conemaugh will participate in the Duke LifePoint Quality Program, which will link Conemaugh’s hospitals to Duke LifePoint’s quality and patient safety initiatives.

- **Employees**: Duke LifePoint will commit to hire all active employees of Conemaugh in good standing when the transaction closes.

- **Governance**: Conemaugh will maintain a local board, which will include local community members, physicians from the active medical staff, the CEO and a representative from Duke LifePoint.

- **Services**: Duke LifePoint and Conemaugh will maintain and, if needed, expand the type and scope of existing clinical services in the region.

- **Information Technology Integration**: Duke LifePoint will commit to further developing Conemaugh’s information system and related technology infrastructure.

- **Graduate Education**: Duke LifePoint will commit to helping develop and expand graduate residency, nursing and allied health programs at Conemaugh.

- **Maintaining Charity Care**: Duke LifePoint will assume Conemaugh’s charity care policy when the acquisition is complete.

- **Financial Impact**: Duke LifePoint will invest more than half a billion dollars over ten years to fund inpatient and outpatient care facilities, technology, equipment and physician recruitment. This includes investments within the next two years to build outpatient centers in Richland and Ebensburg, a medical education conference center and to enhance the Health System’s informational technology platform.

- **Regional Economic Benefits**: As a for-profit system, Duke LifePoint’s relationship with Conemaugh brings much-needed tax revenue to the community. The partnership is also expected to launch investments in construction projects, bringing the potential for additional construction jobs to the community.

For updated information, additional photos or to ask a question, visit [www.conemaughupdate.org](http://www.conemaughupdate.org)
Geriatric Trauma Institute Celebrates One Year Anniversary

It's been one year since Conemaugh Memorial's Geriatric Trauma Institute began with goals of reducing readmissions, medical costs and improving the care of the region's geriatric trauma patients.

The first year statistics show promising trends for geriatric patients. In the past year, length of stay, costs and complications have all decreased for geriatric patients at Conemaugh Memorial. At the same time, patient functional recovery has increased and more patients are being discharged home.

“We are pleased with the progress these outcomes demonstrate,” says Dr. Russell Dumire, Conemaugh Physician Group - Surgery and Medical Director of Trauma Services at Conemaugh Memorial. “We knew that older adults need specialized trauma care and the data collected shows that our team approach to this care is providing positive outcomes.”

Individuals age 65 and older make up about 13% of the United States population. In Pennsylvania, that number is 15.6%, and Cambria County is even higher at 18.7%.

“Conemaugh Memorial's Level One Regional Resource Trauma Center is among the top 10 centers nationwide for the number of geriatric trauma patients treated each year,” says Dr. Aurelio Rodriguez, Associate Medical Director of Trauma Services. “Our program is a multi-specialty initiative and the first fully functional program specializing in geriatric fracture and other geriatric trauma.”

The most common causes of geriatric trauma includes falls motor vehicle accidents and pedestrian related collisions. The high prevalence of medical complications in the senior population including diabetes, hypertension and heart disease increases the likelihood these patients will require more specialized care and will be at a higher risk of death and disability than younger trauma patients. To reduce these risks, the Geriatric Trauma Institute's multi-disciplinary team approach to care relies on the expertise of numerous clinical specialists including Emergency Medicine, General Surgeons, Hospitalists, Physical / Speech / Occupational Therapy, Psychology / Behavioral Health, Orthopedic Surgeons, Neurosurgeons, Geriatricians, Pharmacists and Case Management. Conemaugh Memorial's Geriatric Trauma Team also works closely with each patient's primary care physician to ensure a smooth transition of care.

Dr. Russell Dumire
Trauma/Critical Care Surgeon
Conemaugh Physician Group - Surgery
814-534-1650

OSA FACTS
• Breathing is temporarily and repeatedly interrupted while a person sleeps
• Muscles in the back of the throat fail to keep the airway open
• Untreated, it can lead to:
  - Memory problems
  - Moodiness
  - High Blood Pressure
  - Heart Disease
• Chronic snoring is a classic sign of OSA

Seniors' Secret Health Enhancer
While volunteers of all ages experience benefits, older volunteers tend to reap several health benefits from volunteering. According to a Corporation for National and Community Service study, benefits for individuals ages 60 and older include enhanced life satisfaction and improved mental and physical health. With age comes valuable life experience! Volunteering is a wonderful way to share wisdom, while providing the opportunity to learn something new, meet a diverse group of people, enhance community connection and create a fulfilling sense of purpose. Remaining active and engaged helps our volunteers unleash their potential!

To learn more, call Volunteer Services at 814-534-9129.

Volunteering!
Volunteer pianists, Rodney Eatman and Harriett Miller, share their musical talents each week with patients, visitors and staff.
Seniors’ Secret Health Enhancer

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Diagnosing Sleep Apnea from the Comfort of Home!

The Sleep Disorder Center at Conemaugh Memorial, Miners and Meyersdale Medical Centers is pleased to announce the addition of Home Sleep Testing as part of our comprehensive Sleep Testing Program.

Home, or Portable, Sleep Testing is done in the convenience of the patient’s home for the diagnosis of moderate to severe Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) in patients deemed at high risk for Sleep Apnea based on clinical evaluation.

Home Sleep Testing is not meant to be a replacement for the traditional overnight sleep study, but rather provides an alternative way to evaluate some of our patient population.

Results of the test are interpreted by American Board of Sleep Medicine Certified Sleep Physicians. For more information, call The Sleep Disorders Center at 814-534-6450.  ▲

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Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center
Celebrating 125 years of caring.

If you have photos or stories you would like to share as part of our 125th Anniversary Celebration, please contact Amy Bradley, Director of Marketing Communications at 814-534-3121 or abradle@conemaugh.org.