

News Release

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Baptist Downtown and Wolfson Children’s Hospital Install New Zeiss Surgical Microscopes for Neurosurgery and Spinal Surgery

Jacksonville, Florida, February 22, 2006 – Crystal-clear images, sharp details and natural colors are vital when a neurosurgeon is operating in delicate areas of the body such as the brain or spine. That is why Baptist Medical Center Downtown has installed a new Zeiss OPMI Pentero Surgical Microscope in its operating suites to add to its previous complement of two devices, and Wolfson Children’s Hospital plans to install one within the next month.

The microscopes – developed by surgeons for surgeons – are manufactured by the German group of companies, Carl Zeiss. The Zeiss OPMI Pentero Surgical Microscope was developed specifically for use in surgeries of the brain, spine and nervous system.

Neurosurgeons Paulo Monteiro, MD, and Javier Garcia-Bengochea, MD, along with pediatric neurosurgeon Hector James, MD, say the microscope offers superior technology for their specialty.

“The microscope provides better illumination,” says Monteiro. “The one-touch autobalance feature is personalized to the surgeon. It has the capability to interact with our newly upgraded BrainLAB cranial and spinal image-guided surgical planning and neuronavigational system during resection of a tumor.”

“These microscopes are truly an extension of our eyes,” says Garcia-Bengochea. “They are absolutely essential for the minimally invasive spinal and neurosurgeries we perform at Baptist.”

James, who will use the microscope at Wolfson and has seen it in action, says the Zeiss OPMI Pentero Surgical Microscope offers several advantages. “You can see a lot more detail because the lighting and optics

have been upgraded,” he states. “The microscope is manufactured to work in concert with our neuronavigational system, which we use to do treatment planning before neurosurgery. The navigational system allows us to pinpoint a lesion, such as a brain tumor, and directs the microscope to where we need to work. Also, its engineering makes it far more flexible and easy for the surgeon to reach an area of interest.”

“Precision in neurosurgery is critical to ensure that healthy tissue is preserved while lesions are removed,” says neurosurgeon Arnold Zeal, MD. “These microscopes are incredible, innovative and offer great precision and will help Baptist keep pace with the growing number of neurosurgery procedures.”

A. Hugh Greene, president and CEO of Baptist Health, said the purchase of the new microscopes is just part of the organization’s continuous commitment to offering advanced technology for patients requiring care from the routine to the most complex. “Baptist Medical Center Downtown is a tertiary referral medical center, drawing patients from all over Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia,” he said. “These microscopes ensure that our patients receive the latest in neurosurgical care and our medical staff has the advanced equipment they require.”

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Baptist Health is a faith-based, mission-driven system comprised of Baptist Medical Center Downtown, Baptist Heart Hospital, Baptist Medical Center Beaches, Baptist Medical Center Nassau; Baptist Medical Center South and Wolfson Children’s Hospital -- Jacksonville’s only children’s hospital. Baptist Health also includes cardiology and cardiovascular surgery services, a comprehensive cancer center, orthopaedic institute, women’s resource center, a full range of psychology and psychiatry services, outpatient facilities and a network of primary care physicians’ offices throughout Northeast Florida. Baptist Health is the official healthcare provider for the Jacksonville Jaguars.

For more information, visit www.e-baptisthealth.com

