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## **Miami Surgery Practice Offers Discreet New STARR Weight-Loss Treatment**

### **Bariatric surgeon Dr. Enrique Whittwell praises privacy and comfort of new procedure**

MIAMI – As more obese people increasingly turn to bariatric surgery as a long-term solution to their weight-related health problems, surgeons like Dr. Enrique Whittwell strive to make the procedures less invasive. Whittwell, a surgeon practicing in Miami, recently began providing patients the STARR Treatment to help offer them quick recoveries and ensure their discretion.

“As more patients view the efficacy of well-established weight-loss surgeries as an option, we surgeons have an opportunity to use new technologies that make the procedures even less invasive,” Whittwell said. “Virtually scar-less surgery has become a reality more than ever before because we just don’t make as many incisions as before. Patients can benefit from much better cosmetic results and a fast recovery.”

STARR – an acronym for Surgical Tiny Access and Rapid Recovery – allows Whittwell to perform gastric sleeve weight-loss surgery with a minimum of abdominal incisions, including a small one hidden within the patient’s belly button. Previously, Whittwell needed to make up to five incisions across the patient’s abdomen to perform gastric sleeve surgery.

During a gastric sleeve procedure, Whittwell removes a portion of the patient’s stomach. The part removed produces a hormone that spurs the sensation of hunger; without it, appetite decreases. The patient’s new stomach holds one to five ounces of food, causing her to feel satisfied – and remain satisfied longer – while eating less. The combination of reduced appetite and smaller helpings results in weight loss.

STARR Treatment is possible today thanks to the SPIDER® Surgical System from TransEnterix.

The SPIDER System gives Whittwell access to the patient’s abdomen via the belly button and then expands once inside. Expansion allows him to clearly view the surgical site and operate at necessary angles; it also provides him with 360-degree flexible instruments and a proper left-right orientation. Whittwell tried other “belly button” platforms before, but he abandoned them when they forced him to make too many surgical concessions, such as working with a reverse orient or trying to manage rigid instruments that continually collided with one another.

Patients benefit from STARR Treatment because they experience fewer and smaller incisions, Whittwell said, which should increase post-surgical comfort, hasten recovery and result in fewer noticeable scars.

#### **About Dr. Enrique Whittwell**

A fellow of the American College of Surgeons, Whittwell has been accredited by the ACS Bariatric Surgery Center Network Program. He belongs to the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery Center of Excellence program, the world’s largest center of excellence program for bariatric surgery. He also is a diplomat of both the American Board of Surgery and American Board of Surgical Critical Care. Learn more at <http://www.miamiobesitysurgery.com>.

#### **About TransEnterix**

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