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Tucson Surgeon First in State to Offer SPIDER Sleeve for Weight Loss

Dr. Patrick Chiasson also uses novel single-incision surgical platform for gallbladder removal

TUCSON, ARIZ. – Dr. Patrick Chiasson at the Southern Arizona Center for Minimally Invasive Surgery has become the first surgeon in Arizona to offer a SPIDER gastric sleeve procedure for patients seeking to lose weight.

Chiasson is using the SPIDER® Surgical System to perform the weight-loss procedure through a small incision made near the patient's belly button – resulting in a virtually invisible scar. He also is using the novel platform to perform a single-incision cholecystectomy, or gallbladder removal.

Called sleeve gastrectomy or gastric sleeve, the procedure has become the nation's fastest growing option for surgically supported weight loss because of multiple patient benefits, Chiasson said.

“Bariatric surgery is a medical decision patients thoughtfully consider for quite some time – it's not a choice made lightly,” Chiasson said. “As a surgeon, I want to support my patient's life-changing decision by making it as minimally invasive as possible. The SPIDER System allows me to do that without requiring me to sacrifice dexterity or visualization at the operating site.”

During a gastric sleeve, the surgeon removes about 80 percent of the patient's stomach, leaving a small tube – or “sleeve” – to serve as a smaller new stomach. A smaller stomach means patients feel satisfied after eating less food.

The SPIDER Surgical System by TransEnterix allows Chiasson to perform a gastric sleeve procedure using fewer incisions than required with traditional laparoscopic surgical tools.

With the SPIDER System, Chiasson makes a small incision, inserts the device and opens it inside the patient's abdomen like an umbrella. SPIDER's expansion allows him to comfortably and precisely manipulate 360-degree-rotating, flexible instruments at angles that enhance the surgical procedure. When the procedure is completed, he closes the system and removes it through the same incision.

“By making fewer incisions than previously required, I can provide my patient with a more pleasing cosmetic outcome,” Chiasson said. “And that's important because my patient is working hard to recover quickly, make wise choices and lose weight. By using SPIDER, I help support her forward momentum.”

Last year, the New England Journal of Medicine – one of the world's most respected peer-reviewed medical journals – published studies demonstrating that sleeve gastrectomy was more effective in treating Type 2 diabetes than medicine, diet and exercise alone. Read the article at <http://tinyurl.com/NEJMgastricsleeve>.

About Patrick Chiasson, MD

Chiasson established the Surgical Weight Loss Program at Northwest Medical Center in Tucson in 2002 and is the past president of the Arizona chapter of the American Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery.

Chiasson attended medical school at McGill University, earned a master's degree from the Institute for the History of Medicine at the Johns Hopkins University, and underwent general surgical training at Dalhousie University. More recently, Chiasson completed sub-specialty training in advanced laparoscopic surgery at the University of Toronto's highly regarded Center for Minimally Invasive Surgery.

He has numerous publications to his credit on issues such as minimally invasive surgery techniques and outcomes, health policy, medical ethics and health law. His surgical interests include the application of advanced laparoscopic and endoluminal techniques to manage colorectal diseases, solid organ diseases, and conditions involving the esophagus and stomach, including the surgical management of morbid obesity. Learn more about <http://www.arizonaweightloss.com>.

About TransEnterix

The SPIDER Surgical System's expansion ability and flexible instruments are proprietary technologies created by TransEnterix. Surgeons worldwide are using the system to successfully treat obesity and a variety of general surgery conditions. To see how it works, visit <http://www.spidersurgery.com>.

TransEnterix is a cutting-edge medical device company that develops pioneering technologies to advance minimally invasive surgery. To learn more, visit <http://www.transenterix.com>.