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Press Release

Salto Talaris Total Ankle Replacements are now being performed in New Jersey.

Newark, NJ, May 16, 2007: Dr. Sheldon Lin and Dr. Wayne Berberian are the first surgeons in New Jersey to implant the Salto Talaris Total Ankle Replacement. Total ankle replacement is much more uncommon than hip and knee replacement. Patients suffering from severe rheumatoid arthritis, post-traumatic arthritis, and osteoarthritis of the ankle have traditionally relied on surgical fusion of the joint to relieve pain. However, fusion has the disadvantage of eliminating ankle motion. Total ankle replacement, performed by inserting metal and plastic components into the ankle, can relieve pain while preserving ankle motion. Controlled studies show restoration of a near normal gait pattern in patients who have undergone this surgery.

Drs. Berberian and Lin are board-certified orthopaedic surgeons in charge of the Foot and Ankle Division at New Jersey Medical School. The Division has been involved in design of the Salto Talaris, and has also participated in training other surgeons to implant the prosthesis. Both fellowship-trained physicians specialize in complex reconstruction of the foot and ankle. They are involved in a number of research studies, including a multicenter FDA trial comparing autogenous bone graft to a synthetic growth factor. Drs. Lin and Berberian practice at the North Jersey Orthopaedic Institute, located at University Hospital in Newark. In addition, Dr. Berberian has an office at Hackensack University Medical Center, and Dr. Lin has an office at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

The two surgeons performed their first Salto Talaris ankle replacement on a patient with debilitating rheumatoid arthritis in January 2007. She is currently pain-free, and walking with improved range of motion in her ankle. Drs. Berberian and Lin have subsequently implanted the device in several other patients, and have implemented a selection process to screen other candidates for the surgery.

The Salto Talaris is the newest of four ankle replacement prostheses available in the United States. It received approval by the FDA in November 2006. This innovative device uses cutting-edge technology with a titanium plasma-spray coating to enhance long-term fixation. Its anatomic design minimizes the amount of bone that must be removed during implantation, and precision instrumentation allows reproduction of the natural flexion/extension axis of the ankle. The Salto Talaris is manufactured by Tornier, and has been used in Europe since 1997. The device has a 93% survivorship rate at 6.4 years.

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