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St. Lucie Medical Center Offers Innovative Technology to Improve ENT Surgery

PORT ST. LUCIE, FLORIDA - (July 13, 2011) – In its continuing commitment to providing excellence in quality health care, St. Lucie Medical Center now offers area surgeons access to Medtronic's Fusion ENT EM Navigation System. This state-of-the-art equipment is an innovative electromagnetic image-guided surgery system that allows the surgeon to operate with the maximum amount of information about the unique anatomy of each patient.

The system visually assists physicians while navigating within the paranasal area during ENT surgery. It reformats the patient's preoperative CT images and displays them on-screen from multiple views. During surgery, Fusion Navigation tracks the position of the surgeon's instrument, continuously updating it relative to the CT images.

"The addition of this new technology allows us to more safely navigate the sinus and skull base. This commitment by St. Lucie Medical Center allows the highly skilled ENT surgeons of our area to provide university quality surgical care here at home," said John T. Lanza, MD, FACS, St. Lucie Medical Center Board of Trustees Vice Chairman.

Sinus anatomy is highly variable and may be altered by disease and prior surgery. Yet many ENT procedures occur close to the brain, eyes, and other critical areas. The system provides valuable information that helps enable a safer procedure, a more thorough surgery, and additional peace-of-mind for surgeons and patients. The innovative system is accurate, easy to use, and expandable to allow customization for additional procedures and associated instruments.

"Our number one priority at St. Lucie Medical Center is to provide the highest quality care in the safest environment for our patients," said Gary Cantrell, CEO. "This new equipment provides for a more precise surgical procedure and recognizes the intricate differences in the individual patient. We're proud to bring this technology to the community and offer it as a new tool for hospital surgeons."

For more information on this innovation, visit www.MedtronicENT.com.

St. Lucie Medical Center is a 229-bed acute care facility. Since 1983, SLMC has continually provided quality care to thousands of its neighbors on the Treasure Coast. The combined efforts of more than 400 skilled physicians and more than 850 dedicated employees have resulted in one of the most comprehensive healthcare facilities.

About HCA East Florida Division

HCA East Florida Division is a comprehensive network of 13 hospitals, outpatient surgery centers, imaging facilities and a complete continuum of specialized health programs and services that meet the healthcare needs of residents and businesses in East Florida communities. In 2009, HCA East Florida hospitals cared for more than 510,000 patients through Emergency Room visits. Our more than 4,300 physicians on staff and 13,260 employees provide the quality foundation for delivering care to our patients safely, effectively and compassionately. Our parent company, HCA, is the nation's leading provider of healthcare services.

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