

Specialists in Orthopedic Surgery
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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOCAL SURGEON ONE OF ONLY 32 IN COUNTRY TRAINED IN BIRMINGHAM HIP RESURFACING SURGICAL TECHNIQUE – A PROMISING ALTERNATIVE TO TOTAL HIP REPLACEMENT SURGERY

Commerce, Michigan – July 28, 2006 – Area surgeon, Philip T. Schmitt, D.O., completed the first five Birmingham Hip Resurfacing procedures performed in Michigan on June 26, 2006 at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Commerce, Michigan. Schmitt is one of only 32 physicians in the country trained to carry out this procedure.

Unlike traditional hip replacement surgery, the Birmingham Hip Resurfacing technique uses a metal-on-metal implant to replace a hip joint. By shaving away the damaged surface of the bone that makes up the hip joint and covering it with stronger, high carbide cobalt chrome, surgeons are able to restore the hip joint's functional motion, relieve pain, and help patients return to a normal, active lifestyle. The only FDA approved hip resurfacing system in the U.S., this innovative technique is most notable because it conserves more of a patient's bone than traditional hip replacement.

"I'll be performing a number of these procedures in the months ahead," says Schmitt. "One of my patients is only 41 years old and has been suffering with hip pain for years. We hope to get her back to her daily exercise routine -- which she really misses."

Made by Smith and Nephew, the implant was introduced in the 1970s in the UK and has been implanted in more than 60,000 patients in 26 countries. "This is very promising technology," says Dr. Schmitt. "It has been used throughout the world for 15 years with great success."

A partner with Specialists in Orthopedic Surgery -- with offices located in Commerce and Hartland, Michigan -- Schmitt completed specialized resurfacing training in Birmingham, England earlier this year. "The training in the UK was excellent. I learned all about the technology of the implant, as well as the techniques of the procedure," says Schmitt. "It was a great experience to be able to operate with Dr. Treacy, one of the two surgeons who invented the procedure -- and to learn his tricks of the trade."

Birmingham Hip Resurfacing is ideal for younger, more active patients with arthritis who may not be suitable candidates for traditional hip replacement surgery. The technique is commonly used in patients who have severe damage due to degenerative joint diseases, including: osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, and dysplasia.

Schmitt is a board certified member of the American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics. Specialists in Orthopedic Surgery specialize in orthopedic medicine, sports medicine, hand surgery, arthritis surgery, spine surgery, arthroscopic surgery, and trauma surgery. Please visit our website at www.wefixbones.net, or call us at the locations below:

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