



NEWS RELEASE

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MERCY GILBERT MEDICAL CENTER ACQUIRES LATEST SURGICAL ROBOT TECHNOLOGY FOR SPINE PROCEDURES

GILBERT, Ariz. (May 11, 2012) – A new robot has come to town, helping Arizonans stand a little taller and lead more active lifestyles.

The SpineAssist® surgical robot at Mercy Gilbert Medical Center, a Dignity Health™ Member is one of only seven in the country, and the only one in Arizona. SpineAssist® is the first robotic surgical device designed specifically to operate on the spine, providing more accuracy and less invasive surgeries, getting patients back to their active lifestyles sooner than before.

Dr. Terrence Crowder is the only physician in Arizona trained to perform surgeries using Mercy Gilbert's SpineAssist®, and reports great success in his patients.

“The accuracy rate of surgeries using the SpineAssist® is 98 percent¹, as opposed to traditional surgical methods,” Crowder said. “It’s all about the precision in this robot. If you were having surgery on your spine, wouldn’t you want the most accurate surgery possible?”

Prior to entering the operating room, surgeons are able to use what its maker has called a “flight simulator” to map out the patient’s spinal anatomy, enabling the robot to more accurately place screws and incisions. During surgery, SpineAssist® guides the surgeon, who performs the procedure manually with the help of a robotic arm. The system has been scientifically proven to increase the accuracy of spinal implants and significantly lower rates of misplaced screws and neurological deficits. For patients, this translates to fewer complications and revisions; and the minimally invasive technique contributes to faster recovery, with less pain and scarring. Additionally, use of SpineAssist® results in less radiation exposure for the patient, surgeon and entire OR team during surgery.

¹ Neal Ungerleider, “Robot Turns Spinal Surgery Into a Flight Simulator Game,” [Fast Company](http://www.fastcompany.com/1712790/mazor-robotics-spineassist-spinal-surgery-robot), Dec. 28, 2010, <http://www.fastcompany.com/1712790/mazor-robotics-spineassist-spinal-surgery-robot>

Mazor Robotics, maker of the SpineAssist®, reports the use of the robots reduced patients' hospital stay by a third and resulted in a 70 percent reduction in misplaced spinal implants. The device is primarily used in surgeries where implants are attached to the spine, such as in spinal fusions to correct scoliosis.

“Robotic surgery offers many benefits over conventional surgery,” said Philip Fracica, M.D. chief medical officer at Mercy Gilbert. “We have been investing in surgical robotics as part of our commitment to clinical excellence and successful patient outcomes. With SpineAssist®, we are able to add spinal procedures to our list of surgical specialization.”

About Mercy Gilbert Medical Center

Mercy Gilbert Medical Center is located at the intersection of Val Vista Drive and Loop 202 (south of Pecos Road and east of Val Vista Drive). Mercy Gilbert is a 212-bed, acute-care, not-for-profit provider of emergency care, family birth services, diabetes management, comprehensive stroke services, gastroenterology, sleep studies, neurosciences, orthopedics, general surgery and diagnostic services. For more information, please visit MercyGilbert.org or call (480) 728-8000. Mercy Gilbert Medical Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE). For information on physician referrals or community classes and support groups, please contact ResourceLink toll-free at (480) 728-5414.

About Dignity Health

Dignity Health, headquartered in San Francisco, Calif., provides integrated, patient and family centered care. It is the fifth largest health system in the country with 10,000 physicians and 55,000 employees across Arizona, California, and Nevada. Through its network of more than 150 ancillary care sites and 40 acute care hospitals, Dignity Health is committed to delivering compassionate, high-quality, affordable health care services with special attention to the poor and underserved. In 2011, Dignity Health provided \$1.4 billion in charity care, community benefit and unreimbursed patient care. For more information, please visit our website at DignityHealth.org.

About Mazor

Mazor Robotics (TASE:MZOR) is dedicated to the development and marketing of innovative surgical robots and complementing products that provide a safer surgical environment for patients, surgeons and OR staff. Mazor's flagship product, SpineAssist®, is a specifically designed surgical robotic system that enables surgeons to conduct spine surgeries in an accurate and secure manner. The system has been successfully used in the placement of thousands of implants in the US and Europe. Multiple peer-reviewed publications and presentations at leading scientific conferences have validated the accuracy, usability and clinical advantages of SpineAssist. For more information, please visit www.mazorrobotics.com.