

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Laparoscopic colon resection surgery performed for the first time at CMC

CARLSBAD---A minimally invasive surgical procedure for patients needing colon resection surgery is now available at Carlsbad Medical Center. Laparoscopic, hand-assisted colon resection surgery was performed for the first time at CMC on December 2, 2010 by Cheickna Diarra, M.D.

Laparoscopic hand-assisted colon resection surgery is a type of minimally invasive surgical procedure, in which the surgeon inserts a hand through a small incision using a specialized gel-like sleeve. In this procedure, the surgeon makes a 3-inch incision in the abdomen and inserts his hand into the patient's body. The hand is used for sensory perception and to guide the surgical instruments he manipulates with his other hand. A TV screen overhead is used to view the procedure while the surgery is in progress. With both a hand and laparoscopic instruments doing the work through two or three additional, small, half-inch incisions, the surgeon has excellent control over the operation, as the sensations of touch and depth are preserved. This type of surgery can also be performed on other abdominal organs. Therefore, organs such as the colon, small bowel, stomach, pancreas, and spleen can be removed. This makes it possible to evaluate and remove any evidence of cancer or benign conditions in a less invasive way.



*Cheickna Diarra, M.D.*

"This type of minimally invasive surgical approach has revolutionized the way we perform surgery," says Dr. Diarra. "The old-fashioned way depended on making large abdominal incisions, which were painful and kept the patient in the hospital for several days with longer recovery times. The advantages of laparoscopic hand-assisted surgeries include shorter hospital stays, less postoperative pain, faster return to a solid food diet, accelerated return of bowel function, quicker return to normal activity and better cosmetic appearance."

Although there are many advantages of this type of surgery, Dr. Diarra cautions that not everyone is a perfect candidate for the procedure. "Patients who have severe abdominal adhesions or scar tissue from previous surgeries, unclear anatomy, or extensive cancer obstructing the view and preventing a safe surgery may not be candidates for this type of procedure."

A thorough evaluation in the clinic is mandatory before deciding which patients are candidates for this type of surgery. Most patients stay in the hospital for three to five days and are able to return to light-duty work after two weeks.

*(more)*

Dr. Diarra joined Pecos Valley Physician Group in October. He is a graduate of the Wake Forest University School of Medicine, and completed his general surgery residency at Cooper University Hospital in Camden, New Jersey, where he was named chief resident. Dr. Diarra has extensive experience in complex colon and rectal surgical management.

Dr. Diarra is accepting new patients by referral, practicing with Robert Pendrak, M.D. at Pendrak Surgical, 2402 W. Pierce St, Suite 6C. For more information, call (575) 887-5321. Dr. Diarra is a Member of the Medical Staff at Carlsbad Medical Center.

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**About Carlsbad Medical Center**

Carlsbad Medical Center is a full-service 127-bed community hospital. Since 2004, CMC has reinvested a total of \$20 million in improvements and expansions, including a new Outpatient Diagnostic Center, upgraded diagnostic imaging equipment, an expanded Intensive Care Unit, and an upgraded and expanded Emergency Department. A \$15 million renovation project, scheduled to be completed by December 31, 2010, includes the construction of additional operating rooms, a renovated Women's Services Unit, and a remodeled front entrance and lobby.