



California Pacific
Medical Center

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NEW MINIMALLY-INVASIVE SURGERY FOR OSTEOARTHRITIC KNEES

Fills Void for Patients Who've Exhausted Traditional Treatments But Don't Want Total Knee Replacement.

San Francisco, CA (January 17, 2003) – Patients with early-stage knee osteoarthritis who don't get pain relief from traditional arthroscopic procedures and/or medication now have a new, minimally-invasive option at California Pacific Medical Center.

Orthopedic surgeon Dr. Jeffrey Halbrecht says patients are getting good results with the UniSpacer, a small, cartilage-shaped device that's inserted in the knee joint to replace damaged cartilage and help restore alignment. It stays in place without cement or screws, and follows the patient's normal knee motion.



"This device helps relieve pain and gets people back on their feet," says Dr. Halbrecht. "Best of all, patients retain their natural anatomy."

Traditionally, the primary long-term solution for patients with severe knee pain has been knee replacement surgery, where the damaged knee is replaced with an artificial implant. Surgeons are generally reluctant to perform replacement surgery on younger, more active patients because of the irreversible removal of bone.

But because the UniSpacer integrates with natural bone structure and does not require fixation or bone cuts, it does not compromise future conversion to total knee replacement if it is ever needed.

The procedure is conducted under general or local anesthesia and generally takes about one hour to complete. Most patients are able to return to normal activities within a few months.

Jeffrey Halbrecht, M.D., is an internationally-recognized expert in Sports Medicine and Orthopedic Surgery who specializes in Surgery of the Knee and Shoulder in San Francisco. He is the former Medical Director for the Women's Pro Ski Tour, and is a consultant for USA Soccer, USA Gymnastics and AVP Volleyball. Dr. Halbrecht is also a Master Instructor in Arthroscopic Surgery

for the Arthroscopy Association of North America, and is currently the medical director of the Institute for Arthroscopy and Sports Medicine.

About California Pacific Medical Center

California Pacific Medical Center, a Sutter Health affiliate, is one of the largest private, not-for-profit, teaching medical centers in Northern California. We are a tertiary referral center providing access to leading edge medicine while delivering the best possible personalized care. We provide a wide variety of services, including acute, post-acute and outpatient hospital care; home care and hospices services; preventive and complementary care; and health education. Through our medical education program and our research institute, physicians at California Pacific Medical Center are able to bring health care innovation to the bedside.