Eisenhower Hosts SilverHawk™ Teaching Forum

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On May 13, Eisenhower Medical Center became the first hospital in California to train physicians from throughout the United States in the use of the new SilverHawk™ Plaque Excision System.The Eisenhower teaching forum was also the only such forum in the country to be attended by John Simpson, MD, PhD, SilverHawk inventor.

The SilverHawk, a state-of-the-art new technology, was recently cleared by the FDA for the treatment of peripheral vascular disease (PVD) of the leg. PVD affects as many as 10 million people nationwide, many of whom suffer from severe pain, numbness and weakness in the legs, limping, or lack of mobility.

Plaque removal with the SilverHawk system is a minimally-invasive procedure that uses tiny rotating blades to shave away the plaque inside the artery.As it is excised, the plaque collects in the tip of the device and is then removed from the patient.

Eight physicians from California,Arizona, Kansas, Missouri, Nevada and Oregon attended the forum which broadcast live from both Eisenhower's operating room and catheterization lab, the surgical procedures of Alan Williamson,MD,Vascular Surgeon, and President of Eisenhower's Medical Staff, and Puneet Khanna, MD, Interventional Cardiologist. Dr. Khanna, of Desert Cardiology Consultants' Medical Group, on the campus of Eisenhower Medical Center, was the first cardiologist in the Coachella Valley to use the new device.

"Patients have dramatic relief of leg pain," says Dr. Khanna, who has been using the SilverHawk Plaque Excision System since October 21, 2004."People who couldn't walk 20 or 50 feet without pain can do so after the procedure."

In some cases, Dr. Khanna notes, the procedure has been used to save patients' legs from amputation when other interventions have failed. It can take as little as 30 minutes to perform.

The all day forum was held at the Annenberg Center for Health Sciences at Eisenhower. "Masters in the Art of Medical Education," the Annenberg Center has earned a national reputation for excellence in continuing medical education programming and has won numerous awards for it productions.

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