

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT

Heather Tindall (203) 573-6717

Matt Burgard (203) 573-6718

**WATERBURY SURGEON IS FIRST IN THE REGION TO PERFORM
REVERSE TOTAL SHOULDER REPLACEMENT**

WATERBURY – **Eric Olson, MD**, an orthopaedic surgeon affiliated with Waterbury Hospital, is the first surgeon in the Greater Waterbury Region to successfully perform a new procedure which allows patients to significantly regain mobility in their shoulders.

The procedure, which is called a Reverse Total Shoulder Replacement, has transformed the lives of two of Dr. Olson’s patients who underwent the procedure earlier this year. Both of the patients had been unable to raise their arms to the level of their chests before their operations.

“I am happy to report that both of the patients are now able to raise their arms at least to the level of their heads,” Dr. Olson said. “As a result, they both say their quality of life has improved greatly.”

Dr. Olson said the procedure, which has been performed by surgeons in other parts of the country for several months, involves a complicated operation in which the traditional ball-and-socket configuration of the shoulder joint is reversed so that the ball is placed in the socket part of the joint, and the socket is placed in the ball part of the joint.

“We are tremendously proud that Dr. Olson has introduced this groundbreaking procedure to patients here at Waterbury Hospital,” said **Steven Schneider, MD**, Chief Medical Officer of Waterbury Hospital. “This is further evidence of our commitment to bringing the highest quality medical care to the people of Greater Waterbury.”

Dr. Olson said he first learned of the potential uses of the procedure about three years ago at a conference in Chicago. Since then, he said, he has been following up on the latest developments as the procedure began being used by other surgeons. When two of his patients complained of limited shoulder mobility earlier this year, he suggested the procedure, and they both agreed, he said.

“They had no reservations even though I had not performed the procedure before,” he said. “There are risks associated with this procedure, so I’ve been very pleased with the results so far.”

Dr. Olson said the procedure is more suitable to elderly patients since the improvements in mobility are generally only good for 10 to 15 years, after which time the patient’s shoulder may become painful and require additional operations. He said the procedures were performed at Waterbury Hospital and lasted about three hours in all.

According to HealthGrades, Waterbury Hospital has ranked #1 in Connecticut for two years in a row and among the top 5 percent of hospitals in the country for joint replacement surgery. Over 900 hip and knee replacements are performed annually at the Orthopaedic Center at Waterbury Hospital. The Center is known for its world renowned surgeons and pioneering efforts with respect to minimally-invasive total hip replacement and innovative partial knee procedures. Beyond joint replacement, the Center specializes in advanced spine care, along with the treatment of sports injuries and minimally-invasive treatments for hand, wrist, elbow and shoulder problems.

Waterbury Hospital is the largest private employer in the Greater Waterbury region, and serves a vital role in the economic vitality of Western Connecticut. It is a private, non-profit acute care teaching hospital licensed for 367 beds and affiliated with the Yale School of Medicine, the University of Connecticut School of Medicine and Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Founded in 1890 as Waterbury's first and Connecticut's fourth hospital, Waterbury Hospital is a full-service community health-care institution with centers of excellence in primary care, cardiac services, behavioral health and orthopaedics.

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